ISSUE COMICS SPECIAL

NICO NICO DIARY

MARI OZAWA

1

NICONICO DIARY ①

MAAI OZAWA

NICO NICO DIARY 1

CONTENTS

NICONICO DIARY
5

NICONICO NEWS
201

IT HAPPENED LAST FALL.

SOMEONE RANG MY DOORBELL.

SFX: PINGPONG
I GUESS IT COULD BE A DELIVERY.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
I DIDN'T GET TO SLEEP TILL 5 IN THE MORNING
I BETTER CHECK.
SFX: PEEK
SFX: PINGPONG

WHAT THE, NO ONE S THERE

DID THEY LEAVE ALREADY ?

!

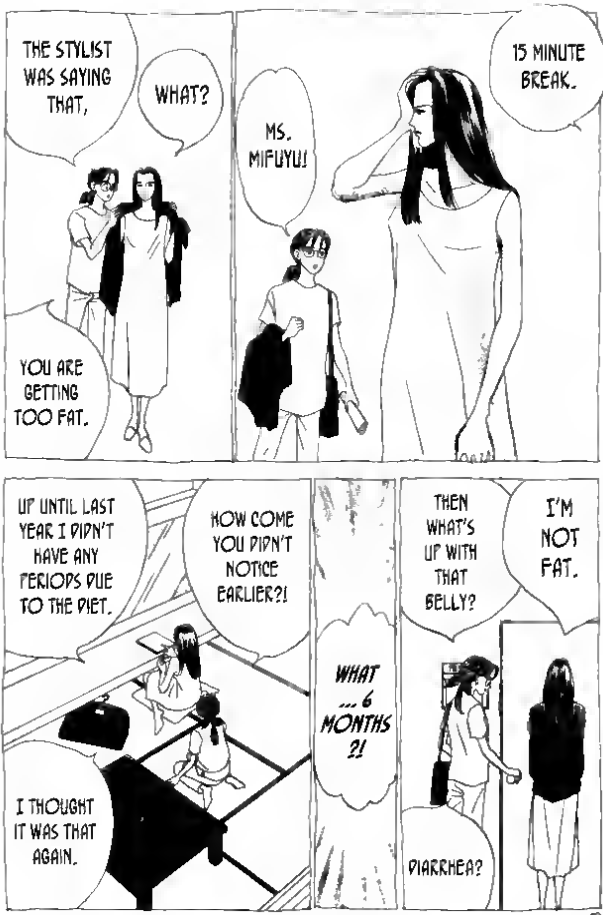
THE DOOR-BELL
WAS IT YOU?

YES.
UH, THIS IS FOR A LADY CALLED KEI.

.....

KOBAKO MIKO MUST BE ...
SHINO MIFUYU ...?
I'M KEI ...
Kobako Miko
AH?
YOU ARE?!
KOBA-KO ...?
THEN THIS GIRL IS
FROM THAT TIME ...?!
SFX: GULP
IT WASN'T A BOY..
SHE WASN'T A GUY...
WELL, COME ON IN.
OTHERS MAY SEE US HERE.

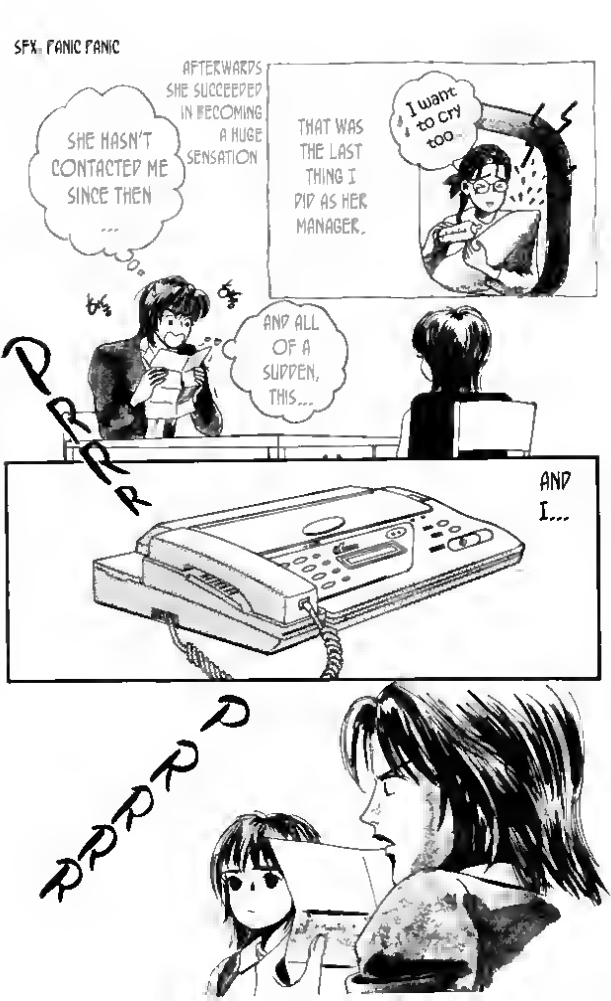
Long time no see.
How have you been?
I often noticed your name on many of drama credits.
Even from afar I am cheering you for all your efforts.
The daughter I had back then already became 8 years old.
As you may know up until now, my mother took care of her but she passed away last summer and I have to leave Japan for awhile.
That's why I wanted to leave this child in your hands...
RIP
Takanashi Kei
SFX: RIP
AS I THOUGHT
WHAT?!
8 YEARS AGO AS 23 YEARS OLD, I WAS MANAGER (MORE LIKE A PERSONAL SERVANT) OF UPCOMING STAR, SHINO MIFUYU (REAL NAME KOBAKO MIKO).
CUT!
OK ... IN MY HANDS?


THE STYLIST WAS SAYING THAT,
WHAT?
YOU ARE GETTING TOO FAT.
MS. MIFUYU!
15 MINUTE BREAK.
UP UNTIL LAST YEAR I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PERIODS DUE TO THE DIET.
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T NOTICE EARLIER?!
I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT AGAIN.
WHAT ... 6 MONTHS ?!
THEN WHAT'S UP WITH THAT BELLY?
I'M NOT FAT.
DIARRHEA?

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY EXCEPT TO GIVE BIRTH SECRETLY
Just what do you think you're doing?!
YOU CAN'T SMOKE!
I WON'T TELL EVEN TO SAVE MY LIFE.
SO WHO'S THE GUY?
SPX. SPARK.
IT'S JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME GOT THAT, KEI?
DON'T TELL THIS TO THE SUPERVISOR. I WAS GOING TO MOVE TO A DIFFERENT COMPANY ANYWAY. SO I DON'T FEEL LIKE I OWE HIM THAT MUCH.
I'LL TELL THE SUPERVISOR TO RESCHEDULE YOUR...

IN HAWAII A GIRL WAS BORN.

I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK THAT NEWBORN NAMED NICO ALL THE WAY TO HER HOMETOWN OF HIKATA.


SFX: PANIC PANIC
AFTERWARDS SHE SUCCEEDED IN BECOMING A HUGE SENSATION
SHE HASN'T CONTACTED ME SINCE THEN ...
THAT WAS THE LAST THING I DID AS HER MANAGER.
I want to cry too...
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, THIS...
PRRR
AND I...
PRRRR

I THINK NICO MUST HAVE ARRIVED BY NOW ...
... MRS. MIFUYU ?!
LONG TIME NO SEE ...
YES, THIS IS TAKANASHI KEI!
THE ONLY PERSON I CAN TRUST TO TAKE CARE OF NICO IS YOU. WHO I KNOW CAN KEEP THIS A SECRET.
I KNOW THAT ALREADY, IT WAS ON ONE OF THE CELEBRITY SHOWS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YES, I WOULD LIKE SOME EXPLAN-ATIONS.
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY THIS AUGUST.
IT'S JUST AS I WROTE IN THE LETTER.

ALTHOUGH I DOUBT YOU FORGOT,
THE MONEY I PAID YOU WHEN YOU RESIGNED FROM BEING MY MANAGER...
THESE PAST 8 YEARS HAVE PROVED THAT YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET
IT WASN'T LIKE I WAS KEEPING THIS AS A SECRET. I JUST FORGOT ABOUT THIS EVER HAPPENING.
SINCE I FORGOT ABOUT IT, OF COURSE I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE.
OF COURSE I'LL COMPENSATE YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLES. A LOT VIA YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.
ALSO I'VE JUST CHECKED, AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR WORKS GOING THAT GREAT NOR DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO GET MARRIED, SO THINK OF IT AS A BUSINESS...
THANKS TO THAT FOR 2 YEARS AFTERWARDS YOU COULD CONCENTRATE ON WRITING SCENARIOS
ATTENDING SCHOOLS FOR SCRIPT WRITERS, YOU COULD FINALLY ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS TO BE A SCENARIO WRITER!

THERE IS NONE.
THEN ASK ONE OF YOUR RELATIVES!
IT WILL BE FINE SHE'S A 3RD GRADER ALREADY, SHE WON'T CAUSE TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
I JUST STARTED ON THIS MANGA WRITING AND I APOLOGIZE, BUT I AM QUITE BUSY!
THEN SOME ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITY.
IT WILL BE TROUBLE-SOME IF THE MEDIA FINDS OUT.
SFX: STUNNED
CLICK
WAI ...
SORRY, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO. I NEED TO GET MY BOARDING PASS.
I'M LEAVING TO NEW YORK RIGHT NOW.
THANK YOU.
WAIT A SECOND, MIFUYU ...
NICO'S BELONGINGS WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.

I CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF A KID...
HOW EVER I LOOK AT IT, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE WAS THAT?
WHAT THE ...
SHE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT THESE PAST 8 YEARS, THAT WOMAN.
CRAP.
AUUHHH~
BUT ...
SHE IS RIGHT BEHIND THAT DOOR! THAT KID...

SFX: CLICK
カチッ
ALTHOUGH I MAY SEEM PISSED, I'M NOT MAD AT YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED.

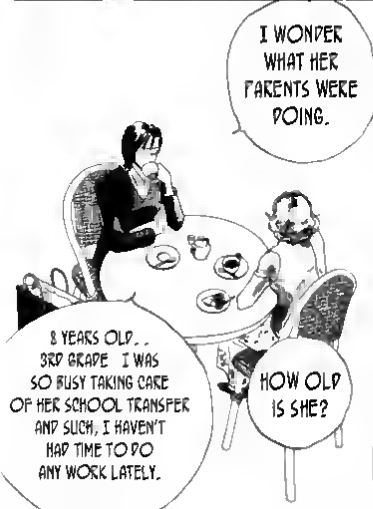
THEN WHERE DID YOU STAY AFTER YOUR GRANDMA PASSED AWAY?
NONE.
MOM'S MANSION...
WE CAN THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE SLOWLY WHEN WE'RE DONE.
WELL, LETS GET SOMETHING TO EAT FIRST ...
YOUR MOM TOLD ME THAT SHE HAS NO RELATIVES, BUT SHE DOES HAVE ONE OR TWO, RIGHT?
SO AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF HER?
YOUR MOM ...
WHEN IS SHE COMING BACK TO JAPAN?
THE MAID ...
WHO TOOK CARE OF YOU THERE?
SHE QUIT.
THANK GOD. SHE CAN HELP.

SPRING?
IN SPRING...
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LIKE NEXT YEAR?

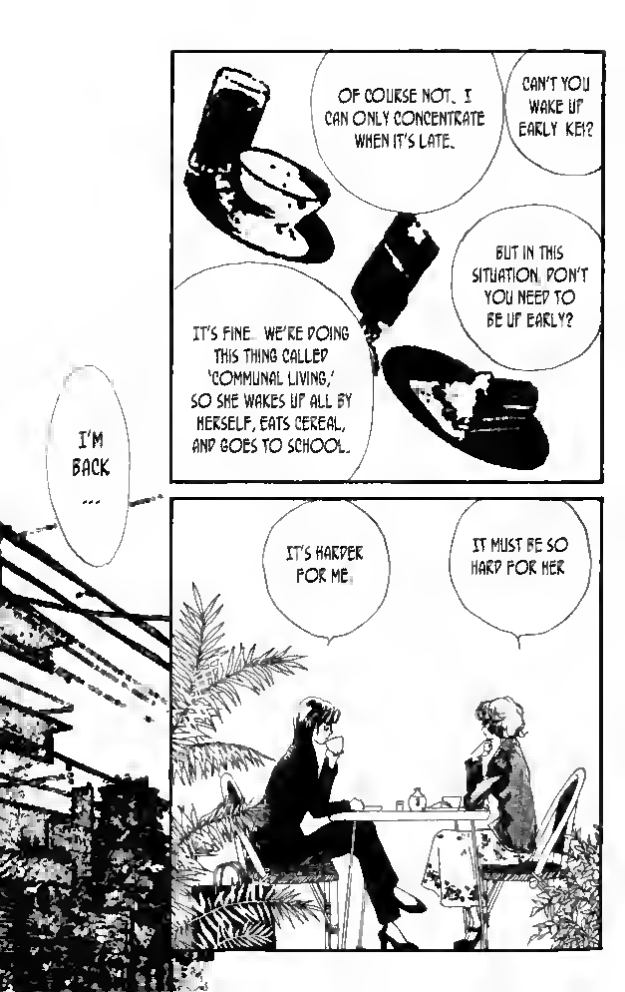
끼익...
SFX: CRASH...

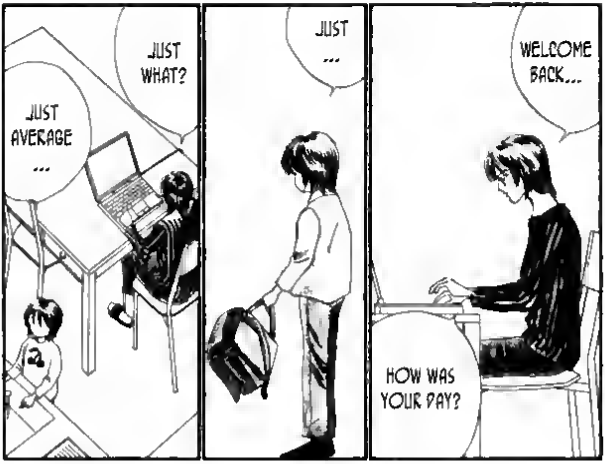
KID'S UNDERWEAR.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? KEI.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THAT KIND OF INTEREST.
SALE

USAKO


I WONDER WHAT HER PARENTS WERE DOING.
8 YEARS OLD.. 3RD GRADE I WAS SO BUSY TAKING CARE OF HER SCHOOL TRANSFER AND SUCH, I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO DO ANY WORK LATELY.
HOW OLD IS SHE?

ACTUALLY I'M TAKING CARE OF A KID
OF SOMEONE I KNOW...
Café de K
LAST WEEK HER CLOTHES ARRIVED AND THEY WERE ALL TOO SMALL FOR HER.


OF COURSE NOT. I CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE WHEN IT'S LATE.
CAN'T YOU WAKE UP EARLY KEI?
BUT IN THIS SITUATION, DON'T YOU NEED TO BE UP EARLY?
IT'S FINE. WE'RE DOING THIS THING CALLED 'COMMUNAL LIVING,' SO SHE WAKES UP ALL BY HERSELF, EATS CEREAL, AND GOES TO SCHOOL.
I'M BACK ...
IT'S HARDER FOR ME.
IT MUST BE SO HARD FOR HER


JUST WHAT?
JUST AVERAGE ...
JUST ...
WELCOME BACK...
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

AH.
SFX: SHAAA-
COME ON, YOUR NAME IS NICO. WHY DON'T YOU EVER SMILE?
HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS FROWNING?

AH.
YES, HELLO ...
SORRY, I'M NOT DONE YET.
NOT CUTE AT ALL NOT CUTE
I SEE, SO YOU WON'T EVER SMILE
PRRRP
SFX: SHAAA-
I'M OFF!
THEW
I APOLOGIZE, BUT PLEASE HOLD ON A BIT LONGER.
NO, I HAD A BUNCH OF THINGS HAPPENING
I'LL GET IT DONE FOR SURE

...SHINO MIFUYU...
...8 YEARS AGO...
BECAUSE I GOT MIXED UP WITH THAT WOMAN.
THIS KID
HER FACE IS SO PRETTY
I WONDER WHO HER DAD IS
.. DAD..
THAT'S IT! ALL I NEED TO DO IS FIND HER FATHER!
RATHER THAN HAVING ME TAKE CARE OF HER, IT MAKES MORE SENSE THAT HER OWN FAMILY DOES
IF I CHECK MIFUYU'S RELATIONSHIPS AT THAT TIME...
Exchange Diary
YES
MAYBE

SINCE YOU SEEM LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK,
WHY NOT WRITE INSTEAD?
AN EXCHANGE DIARY.
WHAT'S THIS?
I'VE WRITTEN FIRST. SO NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
ALSO, I THINK I'LL BE LATE, SO MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE DOOR AND SLEEP EARLY
I'LL BE BACK AFTER A MEETING, SO LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH IT.
탕!
SFX. CLANK

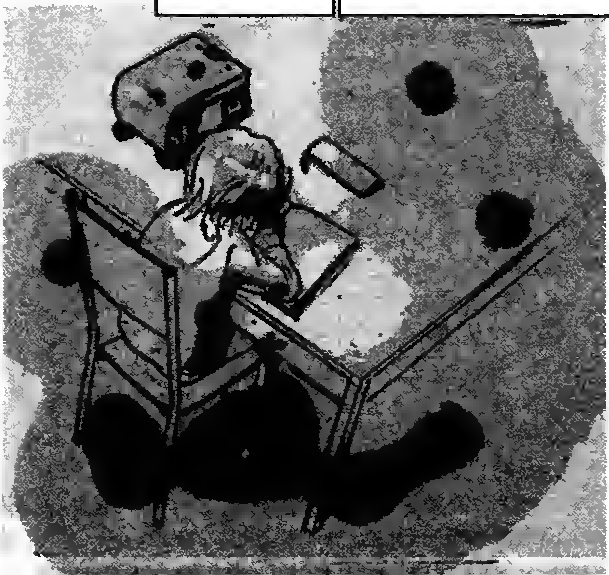
October 16th Kei♡

Questions for Nico!!

Are you getting used to Tokyo yet?
Perhaps made some friends at school?

What do you want to be when
you become an adult?
Have you heard anything about
your father?
If yes, what kind of person
is he?

Will you tell me?



IT WAS WAY AFTER NICO HAD LEFT FOR SCHOOL.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I PRANK SO MUCH ...
PRANK TOO MUCH ...
NEXT MORNING I WOKE UP WITH A HEADACHE

Not used to it.
Made none.
Won't be.
I haven't.

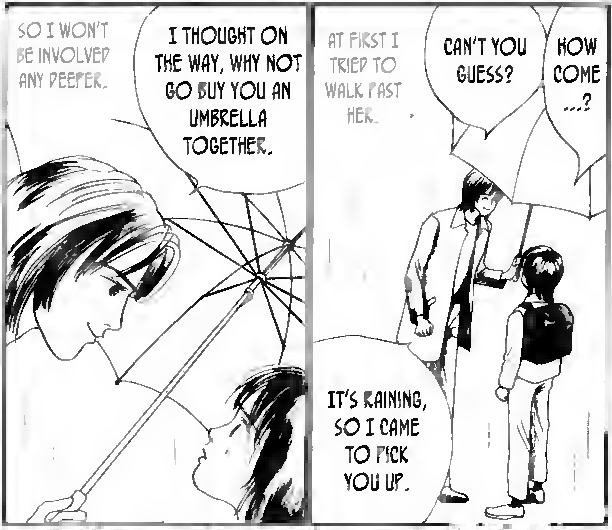
I'M NOT USED TO TOKYO
I HAVEN'T MADE ANY FRIENDS
I WON'T BE AN ADULT
I DON'T HAVE A FATHER
THAT'S HER ANSWER.
NOT USED TO IT.
MADE NONE.
WON'T BE.
I HAVEN'T.

...SELF HATRED...

I KNEW
ALL ALONG

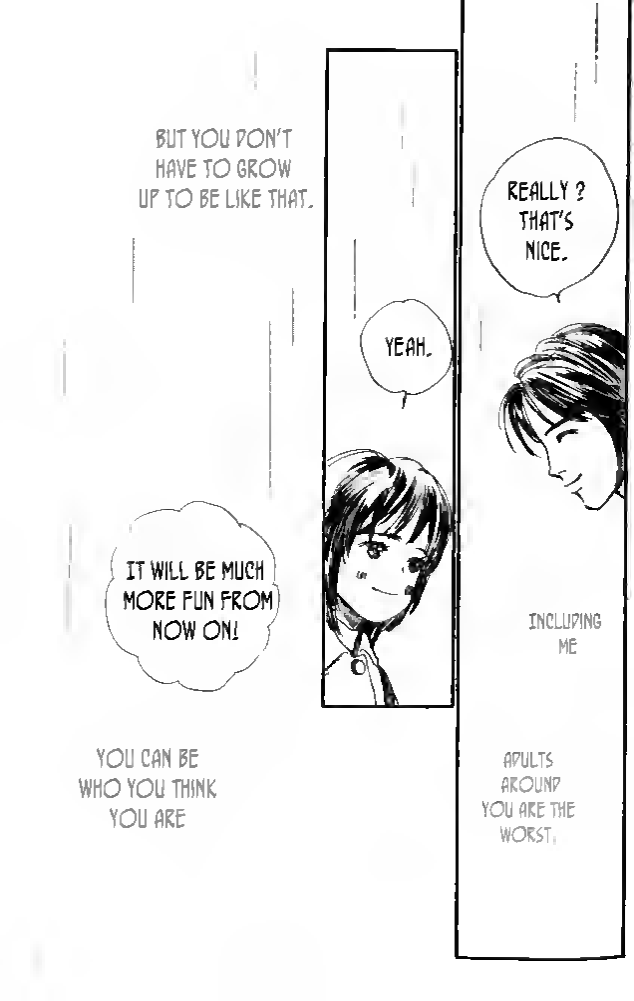
WHO WAS
GETTING HURT
THE MOST.

YOU'RE
ALL
WET!


SO I WON'T BE INVOLVED ANY PEEPER.
I THOUGHT ON THE WAY, WHY NOT GO BUY YOU AN UMBRELLA TOGETHER.
AT FIRST I TRIED TO WALK PAST HER.
CAN'T YOU GUESS?
HOW COME ...?
IT'S RAINING, SO I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.

LET'S GO!
WITH THIS GIRL WHO ALWAYS GETS THROWN AROUND FOR THE CONVENIENCES OF ADULTS WITHOUT CONSIDERATIONS OF HER OWN FEELINGS
TO NOT LOVE THIS GIRL
THIS GIRL WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE AN ADULT

IT'S FINE, LET THEM THINK SO.
ACTUALLY ...
BE A GOOD FRIEND TO NICO!!
LUCKY YOU, YOUR MOM CAME TO PICK YOU UP.
NICO, GOODBYE!
...I MET THEM TODAY...
SO YOU DO HAVE FRIENDS. THANK GOODNESS.
THEY WANTED TO LEARN HIKATA DIALECT.
SEE YOU TOMORROW-
-YES


BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GROW UP TO BE LIKE THAT.
YEAH.
REALLY ? THAT'S NICE.
INCLUDING ME
ADULTS AROUND YOU ARE THE WORST.
IT WILL BE MUCH MORE FUN FROM NOW ON!
YOU CAN BE WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE

YEAH!
WANT TO JUMP OVER IT?!
SO STOP THINKING THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AN ADULT.
AH, A HUGE PUDDLE TO THE FRONT!

I REALIZED
HOW TO MAKE
NICO SMILE.

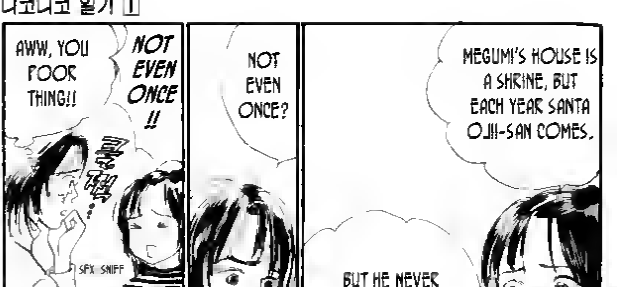
I HAVE TO
SMILE FIRST.

THAT WAS ALL.

DECEMBER
ONEE-SAN, I'M HOME
TWO MONTHS SINCE NICO FIRST CAME
THE SEASON HAD CHANGED TO WINTER.

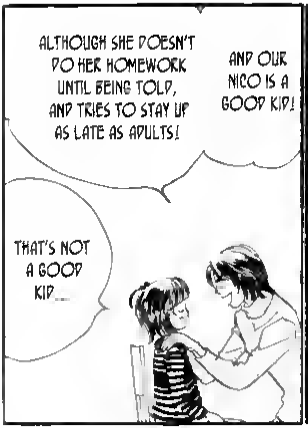
BUT FIRST, WASH YOUR HANDS AND MOUTH BEFORE YOU EAT.
YAHOO
THE FLU IS GOING AROUND
EAT SOME SNACKS. IT'S CREAM MUFFIN.
WELCOME BACK.
AND SO WAS I
ITTADAKIMASU!
NICO WAS COMPLETELY USED TO LIVING HERE,
I KNOW

GIVE ME MORE DETAILS.
THE USUAL? WHAT'S THE USUAL?
JUST THE USUAL.
I ALREADY CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE WITHOUT NICO.
HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?
I DIDN'T GET INTO A FIGHT, I DIDN'T GET SCORNED, I DIDN'T GET PRAISED.
AH...
SANTA CLAUS?
YEAH, DOES HE COME TO ALL THE HOUSES WITH KIDS?
SANTA BOTTLE OPENER
WHAT...?
WHAT ABOUT THAT?
SANTA OJI-SAN ...
WHAT? WHAT?

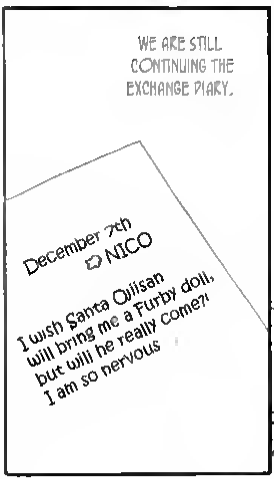

AWW, YOU POOR THING!!
NOT EVEN ONCE!!
SFX: SNIFF
NOT EVEN ONCE?
MEGUMI'S HOUSE IS A SHRINE, BUT EACH YEAR SANTA O...!!-SAN COMES.
BUT HE NEVER CAME TO MY HOUSE, BECAUSE MY GRANDMA WAS A BUDDHIST.

OH MY GOD! THAT MEGUMI, SHE DIDN'T...
YES, SHE DID...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A NAUGHTY CHILD.
THEN MEGUMI WAS LIKE...
...SHE SAID

SFX: PHEW


ALTHOUGH SHE DOESN'T DO HER HOMEWORK UNTIL BEING TOLD, AND TRIES TO STAY UP AS LATE AS ADULTS!
AND OUR NICO IS A GOOD KID!
THAT'S NOT A GOOD KID...

REALLY?!
DON'T WORRY! HE'LL COME FOR SURE THIS YEAR.
OF COURSE! SINCE WE ARE NOT BUDDHIST! (THOUGH WE AREN'T CHRISTIANS EITHER.)


WE ARE STILL CONTINUING THE EXCHANGE DIARY.
December 7th
NICO
I wish Santa Oji-san will bring me a Furby doll, but will he really come? I am so nervous

AH, WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED I WOULD BE THIS ATTACHED TO NICO...?
BUT YOU STILL ARE~

니코니코 일기 1

BUT IT'S PRETTY!
BUT IF EVERYONE HAS IT, IT'S BORING.
IF YOU TEACH IT TO SPEAK, IT SPEAKS AND DANCES AND SO ON!
YEAH. IT'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW. EVERYONE HAS IT.
NICO, ARE YOU GOING TO ASK SANTA OJIISAN TO GET YOU A FURBY DOLL?
FURBY DOLL?!
Endless Day

SFX SPARKLE SPARKLE

December 8th ○ kei

I don't think you should ask for something as expensive as a Furby doll.
After all, Santa Ojiisan has to give presents to children all over the world.

SHE WILL GET TIRED OF IT IN JUST A FEW DAYS.
I KNOW THAT. BUT IF YOU LEAVE IT ALONE IT ALSO GETS PISSED
HAL FROM "2001 SPACE ODYSSEY" WAS ENGLISH FOR A TANTRUM THROWING MACHINE
THIS KIND OF TOY GOES AGAINST MY PRINCIPLES(?) OF CHILD NURTURING
THIS SHOULD DO IT.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: 2001 SPACE ODYSSEY (1968) IS A SCI-FI MOVIE WITH A MACHINE THAT LATER GOES ON A HOMICIDAL FREAK OUT. THE MORE YOU KNOW!

Kei Onesan said that I shouldn't ask Santa Ojiisan for expensive stuffs such as a Furby doll.
But I have no idea what else to ask for!
A! N! D!

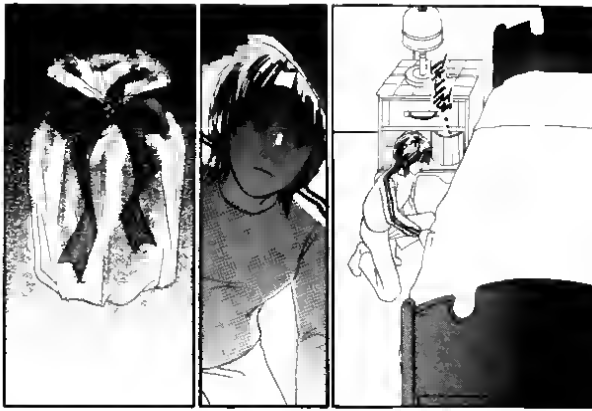
The person who is asking for the present from Santa Ojiisan is Nico, not Kei Onee-san!!
So, WHATEVER!!

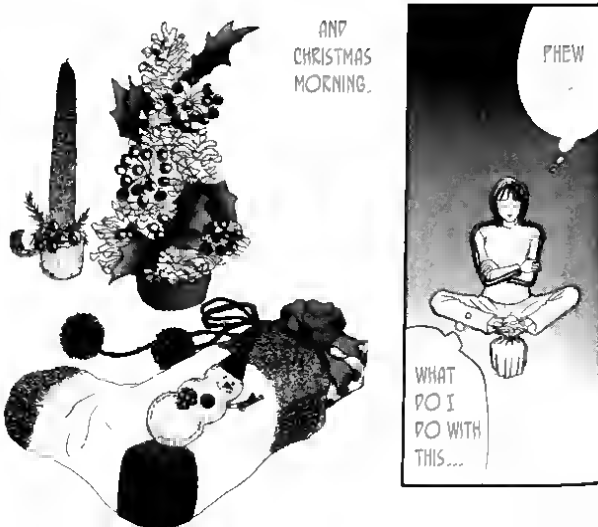
SO IF YOU TAKE TOO LONG, IT MAY BE TOO LATE
IT IS PRETTY POPULAR.
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE ORDEAL PARENTS GO THROUGH TO KEEP THEIR KIDS BELIEVING IN SANTA.
GROAN...
MY NIECE WISHED FOR THE SAME THING SO I GOT HER THAT, AND IT WAS ONLY ABOUT 4,000 YEN.
AS FOR THAT FURBY DOLL, IT'S NOT THAT EXPENSIVE.
YOU GOT IT ALREADY?
EVEN I HAD BADLY WANTED SOME CRAZY THINGS WHEN I WAS LITTLE
LIKE SEA MONKEY
BUT WHAT CAN I DO? EXCEPT TO GET ONE
NATIONWIDE SENSATION!! FRESH FROM AMERICA FUR~ BY ~ CORNER
EEK! TOO FLASHY!!
NOT CUTE AT ALL

IN THE END I DECIDED TO BEND MY PRINCIPLES (?) OF CHILD NURTURING, AND BECOME THE GUARDIAN OF DREAMS
IN ANY CASE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME NICO GOT A PRESENT FROM SANTA CLAUS
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE 2 MORE WEEKS TILL CHRISTMAS
I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE NICO'S HAPPY FACE.
NICOOO~
HMM?

WHAT ABOUT THE ADDRESS?
I JUST WROTE "TO SANTA OJIISAN"
MEGUMI TOLD ME THAT'S ALL THAT'S NEEDED.
YEP.
I WROTE IT LAST NIGHT BEFORE SLEEPING AND SENT IT ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL TODAY.
DID YOU SEND SANTA OJIISAN YOUR REQUEST?
SANTA OJIISAN IS A CELEBRITY.
OF COURSE.
WILL IT REACH HIM FINE?
NAH, TAKE RACCOON PENCIL BOX.
YEAH, TA...
I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN GET THAT FURBY DOLL... RIGHT?

TAKE RACCOON PENCIL BOX?!
YEAH.
SINCE KEI ONEE-SAN SAID THAT FURRY POLL MAY BE TOO EXPENSIVE
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN AS A GREEDY GIRL BY ASKING FOR SO MUCH FOR MY FIRST TIME.
I DID SAY THAT, BUT...
BUT BACK THEN YOU SAID WHATEVER!! TO THAT SUGGESTION!!
AH, REALLY?
I LIKE RACCOON PENCIL BOX!!
perfect contra-diction
LITTLE GIRLS DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS!
looks like this


SFX: SHUFFLE


AND CHRISTMAS MORNING.
PHEW
WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS...

UNNN ...
BIG NEWS!!
KEI ONEE-SAN!
KEI ONEE-SAN!
THAT'S SO NICE ...
I TOLD YOU SANTA OJISAN WILL COME
HERE.
YEAH!!
THIS IS FROM ONEE-SAN.
I GOT THE PENCIL BOX!
TAKE A LOOK!

SHE WROTE "THIS IS THE HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS EVER!"

FEBRUARY -2월-

MY FATHER WHO HAD LIVED ALL ALONE EVER SINCE MY MOM PASSED AWAY

TREATED NICO AS IF SHE WAS HIS OWN GRANDDAUGHTER

ON JANUARY I TOOK HER TO MY HOMETOWN IN HOKKAIDO

GIRLS ALSO HAVE AMBITION! IN FRONT OF DR CLARKE'S STATUE IN HATSUKAOKA SAPPORO

5) TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: NARITA IS NAME OF THE INTL' AIRPORT IN TOKYO.

OKAY
...
I KNOW
...

SHE'S AS ABRUPT AS ALWAYS
REALLY ...?
GOOD FOR YOU.
TOMORROW MORNING...
YOUR MOM... WHAT DID SHE SAY?
SHE'LL PICK ME UP.
ONEESAN ...
WHY ARE YOU SMILING...?
WELL, WE BETTER PACK YOUR BAG!
SHE'S EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, SHE DID SAY SPRING.
WITHOUT A SINGLE PHONE CALL WHILE SHE WAS GONE

IN MY MIND.
HOW RUDE!
YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
I WAS TURNING THEM DOWN, BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE!
I WASN'T READY
YOU DON'T KNOW? NOW I CAN FINALLY CONCENTRATE AS MUCH AS I WANT ON MY WORK
I CAN BRING MY BOYFRIEND OVER...
IT'S FOR REAL.
LIAR!
I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU'LL BE GONE NOW.

SNIFF
...
SOB
...
SNUFFLE
WAA-
AHHH

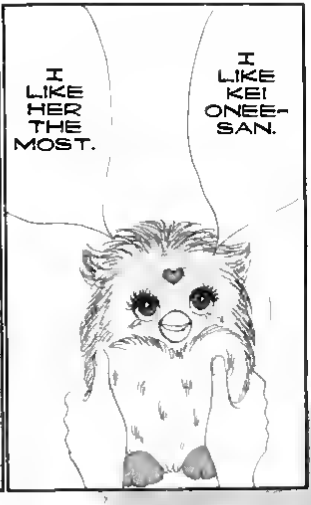
SHE NEVER CRIED BEFORE REGARDLESS WHAT HAPPENED.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME NICO CRIED OUT LOUD SINCE SHE CAME HERE

ANY ...
AN ...
ANY MOMS ...?
BUT ...
BUT ...
I WANTED TO CRY TOO
CHILDREN ARE BETTER OFF LIVING WITH THEIR MOM.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME ...
YOU CAN COME OVER ANYTIME ...

BUT IN MY BED.
THAT NIGHT SHE DIDN'T SLEEP IN HER OWN FUTON,
WHILE I WAS PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP,
AND THE NEXT MORNING,
SHE GOT ON THE BLACK TAXI THAT CAME TO PICK HER UP
SHINO MIFUYU COULDN'T BE SEEN...
AND NICO LEFT...

WENT BACK TO MY LIFE ALONE.
I AGAIN
THAT SCARED ME. DON'T MAKE NOISE ALL OF A SUDDEN
POOR THING. IT'S COVERED WITH DUST...
ALTHOUGH I GUESSED THIS WOULD HAPPEN EVEN BEFORE
AH ...
NIKO, THAT GIRL ...
I LIKE.
PA!
WHAT?
SHE LEFT HER FURBY DOLL HERE.



I OFTEN THINK...

WHAT DOES BLOOD RELATION MEAN ?

IS IT THAT IMPORTANT?

IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE TOO MANY COMBINATIONS OF

UNLOVING PARENTS AND UNLOVED CHILDREN,

I STAY AWAKE THINKING ABOUT THOSE ISSUES TILL DAWN.
THEN DOING WHAT LITTLE SLEEP I MANAGE TO GET
HMM ...
GROAN ...
AM I DREAMING AGAIN ?
WHY WON'T IT STOP?
I ALWAYS DREAM WHERE I AM WOKEN BY SOMEONE RINGING THE DOOR BELL
SFX: DING DONG

MARCH -3월-

SITTING ON THE STAIRWAYS
IN FRONT OF MY DOOR WAS

A CUTE LITTLE VISITOR....

welcome to
the first release by

Furinkazan

風林火山

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& pEaChiE

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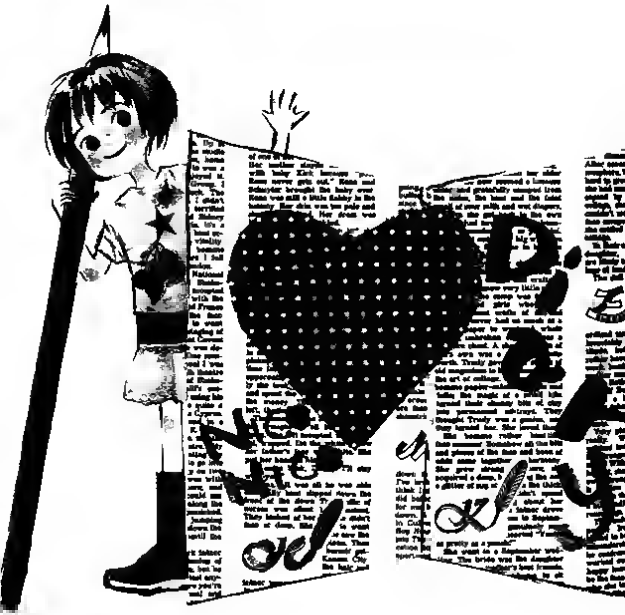
NICONICO DIARY ①

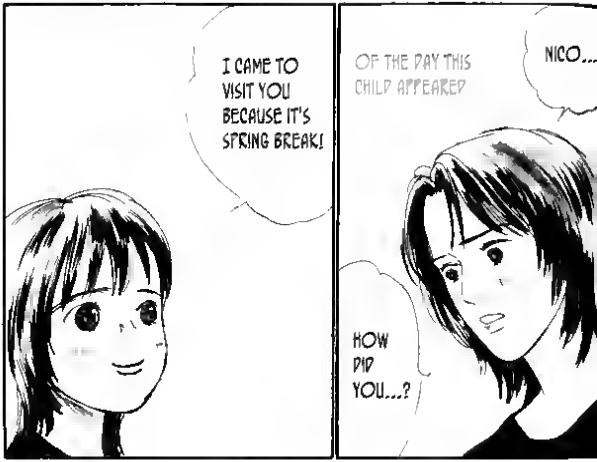


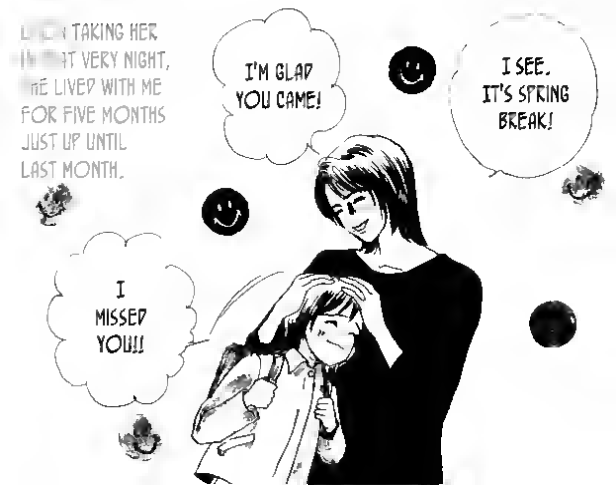
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF FAMILY?

NICONICO DIARY ①

AH, KEI-ONEESAN!
HELLO!
ガラガラ!

NICONICO DIARY ①





WHY? BECAUSE
I MISSED YOU TOO, NICO...
I NEVER HAD MUCH INTEREST IN CHILDREN IN FACT I HAD EVEN THOUGHT THAT I DISLIKED THEM, BUT I BECAME COMPLETELY ENCHANTED WITH THIS CHILD
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WAITED.. YOU WEREN'T ASKING ME TO COME BACK, SO....
THE HOME THAT NICO BELONGS TO IS
DOES YOUR MOM KNOW YOU'RE HERE?
NO. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN ABOUT A WEEK.
HARDGE ICE

NICONICO DIARY ①

NICO'S MOTHER SHINO MIFUYU (REAL NAME IS KOBAYASHI MIKO) IS AN ACTRESS WHO GAVE BIRTH TO NICO 9 YEARS AGO SHROUDED IN UTMOST SECRECY

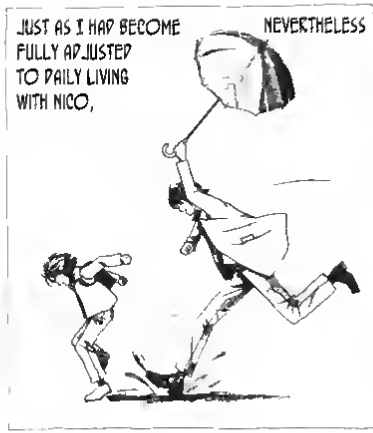
SO NICO WAS RAISED BY HER GRANDMOTHER IN MIFUYU'S HOMETOWN IN NIIGATA

LAST SUMMER WHEN HER GRANDMOTHER PASSED AWAY, MIFUYU TOOK HER IN TO YOKOHAMA BRIEFLY AND THEN...

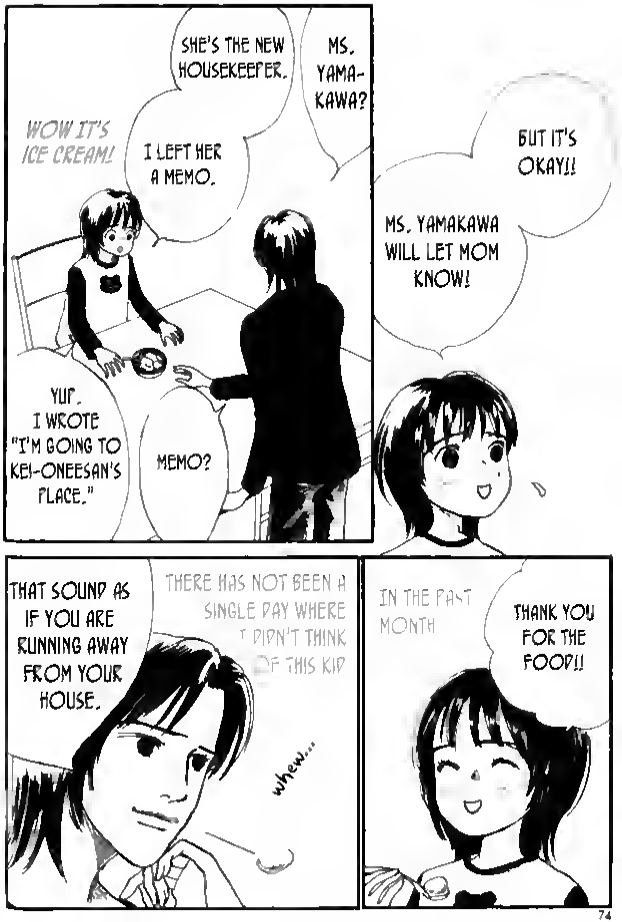
IN THE FALL

IS THAT HER ATTITUDE WHEN SHE'S ASKING OTHERS FOR A FAVOR?
UNBELIEV-ABLE...
I SEE SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS THAT WOMAN

JUST BECAUSE I WAS HER MANAGER DURING THE TIME OF NICO'S BIRTH SHE HAS ENTRUSTED NICO UNTO ME.



NICO HAD TO
RETURN TO MIFUYU...


WOW IT'S ICE CREAM!
I LEFT HER A MEMO.
SHE'S THE NEW HOUSEKEEPER.
MS. YAMA-KAWA?
YUP. I WROTE "I'M GOING TO KEI-ONEESAN'S PLACE."
MEMO?
MS. YAMAKAWA WILL LET MOM KNOW!
BUT IT'S OKAY!!
THAT SOUND AS IF YOU ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE.
THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE DAY WHERE I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS KID
whew...
IN THE PAST MONTH
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!!

NICONICO DIARY ①

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON SAYING?!
I GUESS I SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE THEM A CALL THEN.
CALL WHO?!
MS. YAMAKAWA FIRST. THEN YOUR MOM.
I'M GOING TO TELL THEM THAT YOU'LL BE SPENDING YOUR SPRING BREAK HERE, SO THEY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY!

MARCH -3월-

HELLO?
I'M TAKANASHI KEI, FROM BEFORE...
I WON'T JUST
THINKING ABOUT HER
POUNCE
KYAAK!
O-OH, NO, IT'S NOTHING...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU...

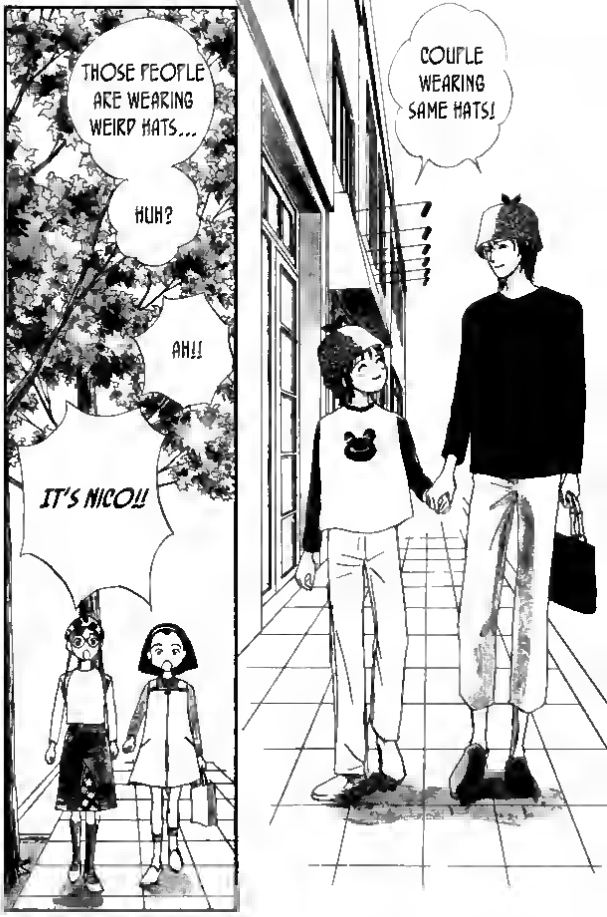
NICONICO DIARY ①

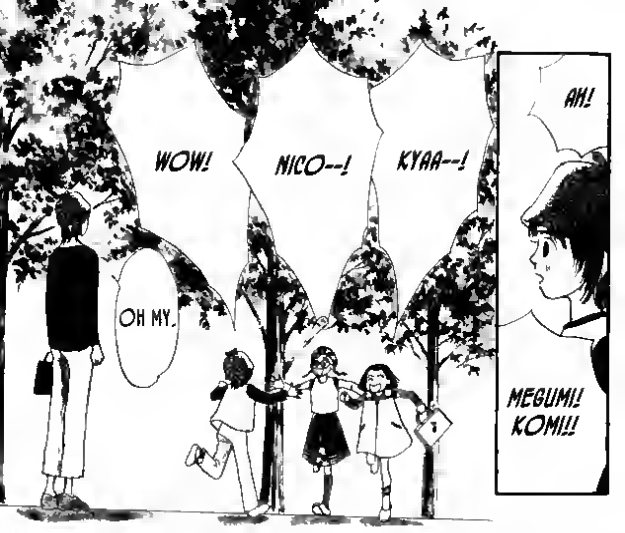
Atelier Soleil
OPEN NO SALE
IT'S A HAT STORE.
YEAH. IT MUST BE NEWLY OPENED!
PRETTY STORE DETECTED!!

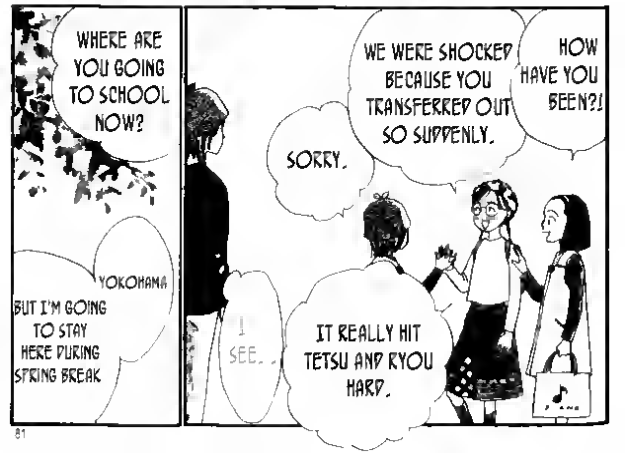
OH MY, IT'S SO CUTE. OH HO HO HO.

LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S A RABBIT.

NICONICO DIARY ①


COUPLE WEARING SAME HATS!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE WEARING WEIRD HATS...
HUH?
AH!!
IT'S NICO!!


WOW!
NICO--!
KYAA--!
OH MY.
AH!
MEGUMI! KOMI!!


WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL NOW?
YOKOHAMA BUT I'M GOING TO STAY HERE DURING SPRING BREAK
I SEE..
IT REALLY HIT TETSU AND RYOU HARD.
SORRY.
WE WERE SHOCKED BECAUSE YOU TRANSFERRED OUT SO SUDDENLY.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?!

CAN I GO?
OF COURSE!!
MAYBE WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER!
OH YEAH, I'M HAVING MY BIRTHDAY PARTY TOMORROW. DO YOU WANT TO COME, NICO?
REALLY?
THEN I'LL CALL YOU LATER ON. TELL ME YOUR NUMBER.
HERE'S MINE!
E-MAIL IS FINE TOO.
OKAY!
EVERYONE'S GONNA BE SO HAPPY, ESPECIALLY RYOUU AND TETSU!
BYE, NICO!
GOODBYE, MA'AM!!

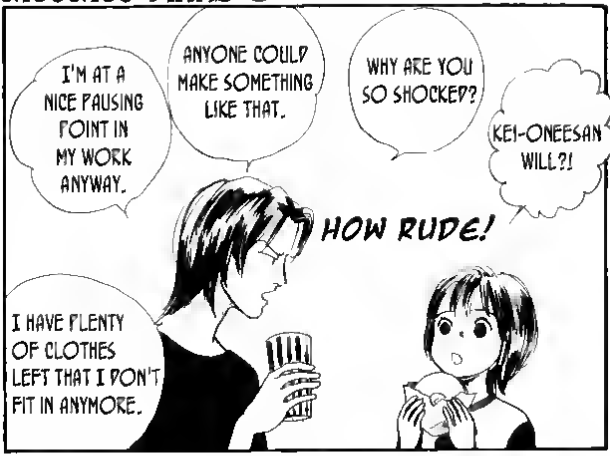
NICONICO DIARY ①

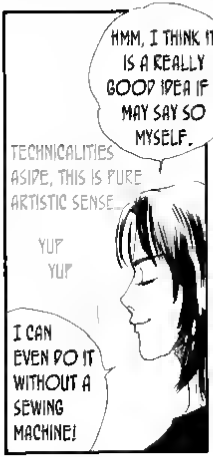
IT'S SO FUN.
YEAH.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU GOT TO MEET UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
OH WELL THEY CAN THINK WHAT EVER.
I GUESS THEY STILL THINK YOU'RE MY MOM...
MA AM ~

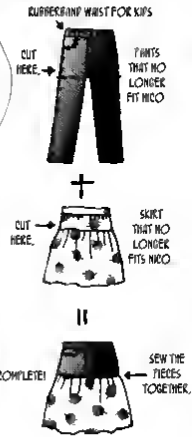
TARE RACCOON...
HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE TARE RACCOON GOODS?
I LIKE IT, BUT KOMI IS A BIT MORE ON THE MATURE SIDE...
YEAH.
I GUESS WE SHOULD GO BUY A GIFT.
WHAT WOULD BE GOOD...?

SHE ALWAYS CAME TO SCHOOL WEARING STUFF HER MOM MADE.
HMM... SHOULD I MAKE SOME CLOTHES FOR NICO?
AND PRETTY WELL-MANNERED.
THOUGH WHAT THEY DID AT THE END WAS A BIT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE WAS TALL AND WAS EVEN WEARING AN ALTERED JEAN SKIRT. SHE LOOKED IMPRESSIVE.
REALLY?
I HEARD MAKING CLOTHES IS HER SPECIALTY.
THAT SKIRT WAS PROBABLY MADE BY KOMI'S MOTHER.
A SKIRT LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW...
WHAT?

NICONICO DIARY ①


I'M AT A NICE PAUSING POINT IN MY WORK ANYWAY.
ANYONE COULD MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHY ARE YOU SO SHOCKED?
KEI-ONEESAN WILL?!
HOW RUDE!
I HAVE PLENTY OF CLOTHES LEFT THAT I DON'T FIT IN ANYMORE.


HMM, I THINK IT IS A REALLY GOOD IDEA IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF.
TECHNICALITIES ASIDE, THIS IS PURE ARTISTIC SENSE.
YUP YUP
I CAN EVEN DO IT WITHOUT A SEWING MACHINE!



Komi
Happy Birthday!
Nico

WELL THEN, I SHALL SET OUT TO MAKE THE SKIRT NOW AS WELL!
Sewing Box

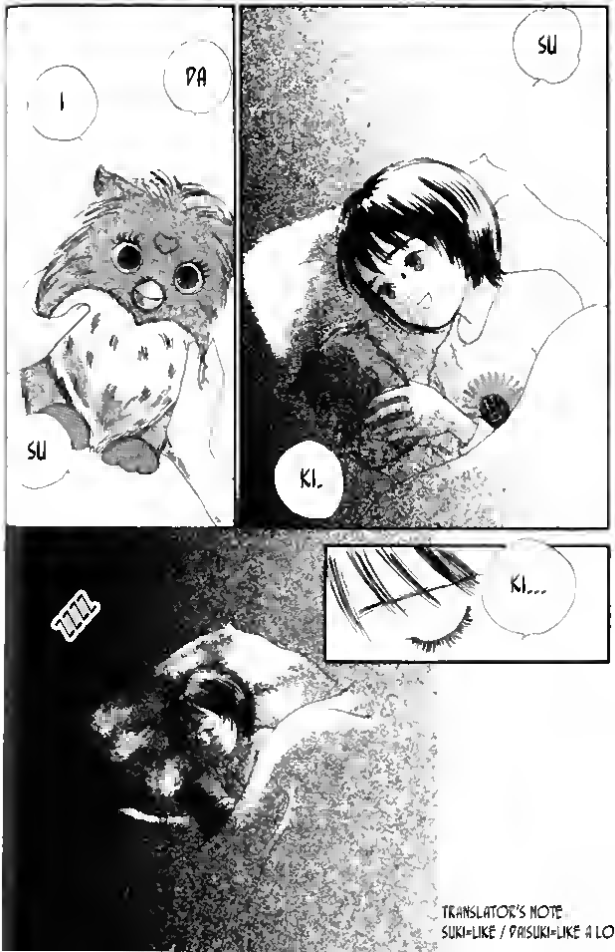
SFX: SET

ARE YOU WRITING THE CARD?
YEAH.

SZ-Q
ha ha ha
SORRY, SORRY. LOT OF DUST, EH?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LAST USED IT..
AH.
YES.
DID YOU FINISH THE CARD, NICO?
THEN GO ON OFF TO BED. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH OVER ME.
SHE'S BRAVE
SZ-Q
SZ-Q
SZ-Q
SZ-Q

YES, YES. YOU MAY.
CAN I SLEEP ON YOUR BED?
STRANGE... I SWEAR I CUT IT STRAIGHT...
STARE ...

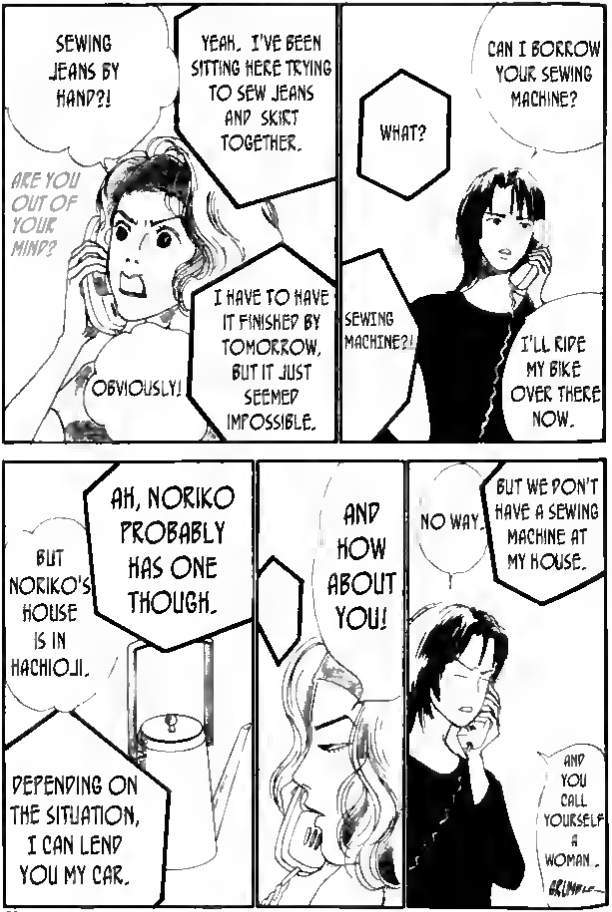
NICONICO DIARY ①


I
DA
SU
SU
KI.
KI...
ZZZ
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE
SUKI=LIKE / DAISUKI=LIKE A LOT

-ON POKE PINS POKE
AND POKE NEEDLES POKE-
POKE
POKE
POKE
AGAIN...
AH...
OWW!!
PRICK

DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS, I'VE ONLY GOTTEN THIS FAR...
IF I ONLY HAD A SEWING MACHINE, THIS SORT OF THING WOULDN'T EVEN BE A PROBLEM.
MIDNIGHT.
GREAT! SHE'S PROBABLY NOT SLEEPING YET.
SUCK
RRRR
...HELLO
KANAKO? SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR WORKOUT.
AT LEAST YOU'RE AWARE. SO WHAT'S UP?
ELF

NICONICO DIARY ①


SEWING JEANS BY HAND?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
OBVIOUSLY!
YEAH. I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE TRYING TO SEW JEANS AND SKIRT TOGETHER.
I HAVE TO HAVE IT FINISHED BY TOMORROW, BUT IT JUST SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE.
CAN I BORROW YOUR SEWING MACHINE?
WHAT?
SEWING MACHINE?!
I'LL RIDE MY BIKE OVER THERE NOW.
AH, NORIKO PROBABLY HAS ONE THOUGH.
BUT NORIKO'S HOUSE IS IN HACHIOJI.
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, I CAN LEND YOU MY CAR.
AND HOW ABOUT YOU!
NO WAY.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE A SEWING MACHINE AT MY HOUSE.
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A WOMAN.
GRUMP

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT, KEI?
YUP, I KNOW. THANK YOU.
SORRY FOR STOPPING SO LATE.
NO PROBLEM. I WAS UP ANYWAY.
KEI REPAY US WITH A FULL COURSE TREAT LATER.
WHEW, I'M SAVED.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, KANAKO.
A FULL COURSE TREAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH.

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT'D BE THIS MUCH TROUBLE OVER A KID'S PRESS...
WHEW
2 AM...
STILL, FOR NOW...
THE POWER PLUG'S NOT HERE...
ARA?
AH?
I'LL GET THIS DONE IN ALL AT ONCE, IN ONE BREATH...
SHOCK
HUH?

I ALMOST DOZED OFF...
suck
AT LEAST THIS WOKE ME UP...
tick tick tick tick
tick
tick
tick
tick
AHH!
KICK
I GUESS THE SITUATION CALLS FOR FINISHING IT BY HAND...
sigh.
I'LL DEFINITELY NEVER BE A REFINED LADY.
BUT...
IT'S FINISHED...
노래하는 인기 에보.
다
다 됐다

EXHAUSTED!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
IT IS A MESS...
Sewing Box

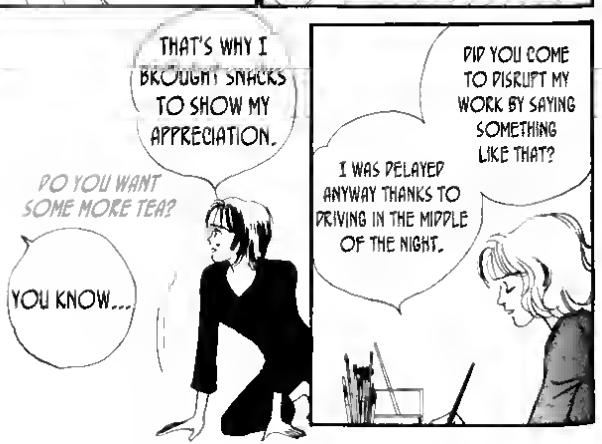
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO TO THE PARTY, SO I'LL GO NOW!
OKAY...
ALRIGHT ...
HM.....
KEI-ONEESAN
ONEE-SAN!
I'LL WEAR THE HAT WE BOUGHT TOGETHER.
AND I'LL WEAR THE SKIRT YOU MADE ME!

CLICK...
I'LL BE BACK LATER!
OKAY...
OKAY...
MMM...
THE HAT AND...
SKIRT...
SKIRT?!

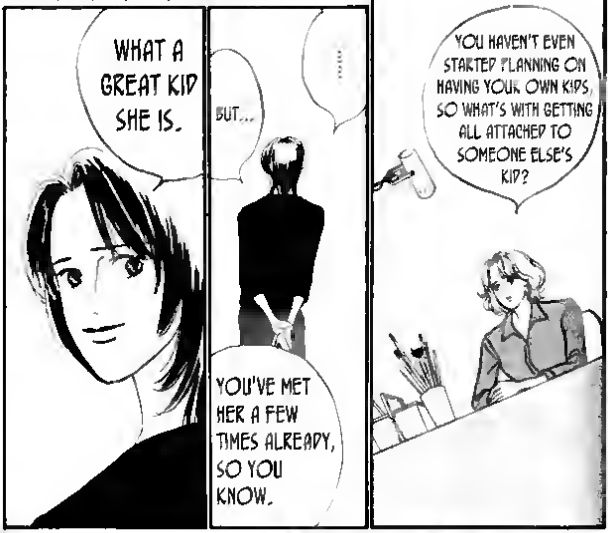
HOW? I THOUGHT I HID IT?!
THE SKIRT I MADE LAST NIGHT?!
NO WAY. HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLY WEAR THAT IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE!
IT SOUNDS RATHER NICE.

NICONICO DIARY ①

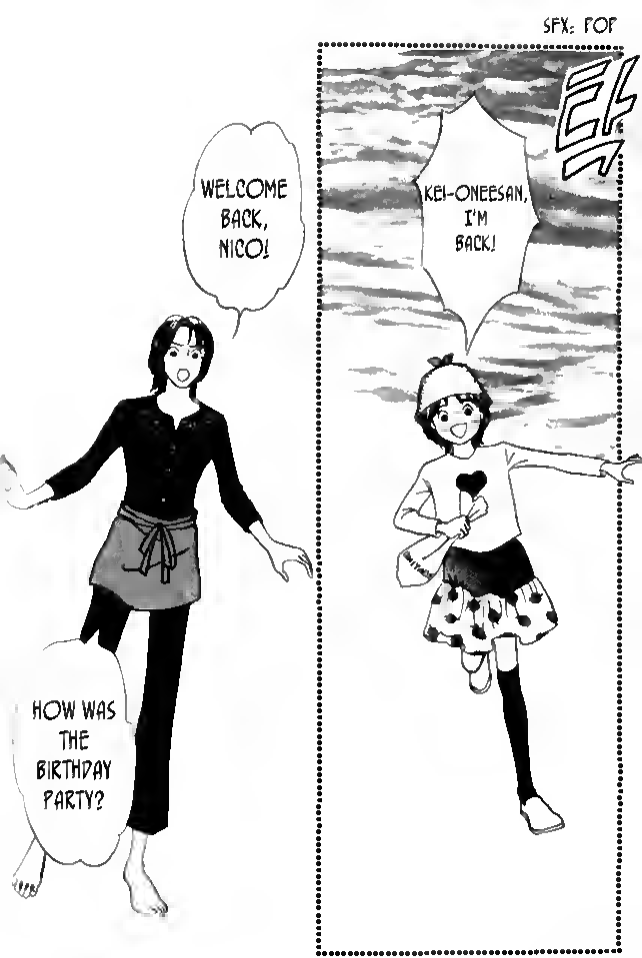
I PERSONALLY DON'T MIND BEING MADE FUN OF, BUT THAT CHILD...
KEI..
EVEN IN FRONT OF THE PRYING EYES OF A CHILD WITH A MOM WHO SPECIALIZES IN NEEDLEWORK? THAT FLAMBOYANT THING!
DIDN'T YOU SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT WORKING ON IT?


THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT SNACKS TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION.
DO YOU WANT SOME MORE TEA?
YOU KNOW...
DID YOU COME TO DISRUPT MY WORK BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I WAS DELAYED ANYWAY THANKS TO DRIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

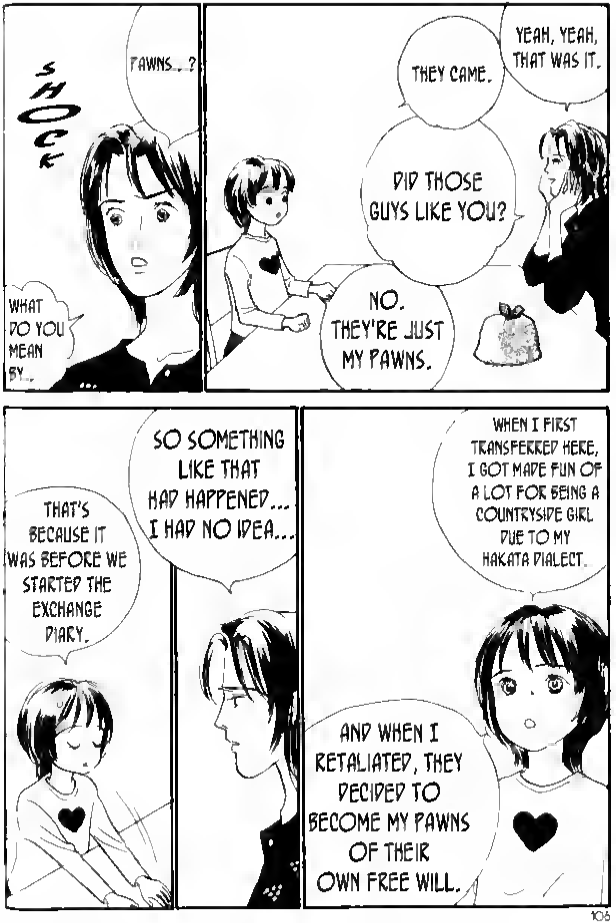
AND SHE'LL BE GOING HOME AGAIN WHEN THE SPRING BREAK IS OVER
WHEN YOU HANDED THE KID BACK OVER TO HER MOTHER LAST MONTH,
YOU WERE SO SULLEN AND COULDN'T GET ANY WORK DONE.
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA TO GET TOO ATTACHED TO THAT KID.
HONESTLY, WE'RE IN A BAD SITUATION AS IT IS.
OUR 30S, SINGLE AND WITHOUT MEN.
MAYBE THAT'S SO, BUT...
AND, ON TOP OF THAT, WE LACK SECURITY AS FREELANCERS...
IT'S OKAY.
I'M PREPARED FOR IT THIS TIME.


WHAT A GREAT KID SHE IS.
BUT...
.....
YOU'VE MET HER A FEW TIMES ALREADY, SO YOU KNOW.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED PLANNING ON HAVING YOUR OWN KIDS, SO WHAT'S WITH GETTING ALL ATTACHED TO SOMEONE ELSE'S KID?

YEAH....
THAT, I KNOW....


SFX: POP
KEI-ONEESAN, I'M BACK!
WELCOME BACK, NICO!
HOW WAS THE BIRTHDAY PARTY?

NICONICO DIARY ①


SHOCK
PAWNS...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY...
THEY CAME.
YEAH, YEAH, THAT WAS IT.
DID THOSE GUYS LIKE YOU?
NO. THEY'RE JUST MY PAWNS.
SO SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAD HAPPENED... I HAD NO IDEA...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS BEFORE WE STARTED THE EXCHANGE DIARY.
WHEN I FIRST TRANSFERRED HERE, I GOT MADE FUN OF A LOT FOR BEING A COUNTRYSIDE GIRL DUE TO MY HAKATA DIALECT.
AND WHEN I RETALIATED, THEY DECIDED TO BECOME MY PAWNS OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

YES.
THAT DIARY CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR US.
IT'S IN THAT DRAWER.
OH YEAH!
CAN I WRITE TODAY'S EVENTS IN THE EXCHANGE DIARY?!
I SEE.
IT WAS BEFORE NICO OPENED UP TO ME
UM, MARCH...
25TH CLEAR WEATHER.
AFTER LEAVING THIS DIARY HERE, I USED A DIFFERENT ONE AT HOME...
I WROTE IN MY DIARY EVERY DAY AT MY MOM'S HOUSE TOO.
I FOUND IT!

After the daylight
25th Saturday
nico
nico

Today, I attended the birthday party of Komi
my close friend at my last school.
I wore the skirt Keironeesan made me.

When I woke up in the morning,
I only saw the sewing machine and
the needlework box on the table,
but I didn't see the skirt. So I looked
for it desperately!!
I found it under the table in a shopping bag.

I was ve..... abridged
. .....ry happy!!

Also, the Princess outfit Komi's mother made for Komi looked rather shabby compared to the much prettier skirt that Keironeesan made for me.

Megumi even said, "I'm going to ask my mom to make me a skirt like that too."

I was really flattered.
Kei.

SFX: CREAK...
WHAT'S ALL THIS...
SHE'S ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE SKIRT...
THE LITTLE RASCAL...
TRULY.

APRIL -4월-
HAPPY TIMES...
SEEM TO EXPIRE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...

NICONICO DIARY ①
WHEW.
TO REDEEM MYSELF OF ALL THE PLAYING TIME I DEVOTED MYSELF TO CATCHING UP WITH WORK.
CRACK
THERE ARE MERELY 3 DAYS LEFT OF SPRING BREAK.
WHILE NICO PLAYED WITH HER FRIENDS DURING THE DAY, SHE DEVOTED HER EVENINGS TO...
AH.
I DIED.
PLAYING GAMES, WATCHING CARTOONS, AND WRITING IN THE EXCHANGE DIARY.

WE WERE PREPARING QUIETLY FOR OUR PARTING.

THE RASCAL... SHE FORGOT TO PACK THE FURBY DOLL AGAIN.
AND IT WAS SANTA'S FIRST GIFT TOO.
ZIP
AH...
THEN.
NICO SEEMED AS IF SHE WERE FIRM IN HER RESOLVE ALL ALONG
SHE FELL ASLEEP AS IF IT WERE ANY OTHER NIGHT
HMM?
...NICO NICO DIARY...?
Nico Nico Diary
I DISCOVERED IT...
BOOK (SMALL TEXT ON ONE OF THE PAGES) AND KEI-ONEESAN

February 14 Monday Nico

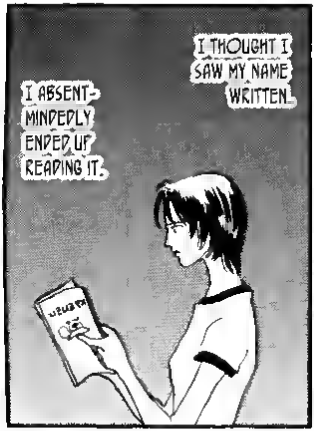
Kei-oneesan:

I'm so miserable here.
I don't think my mom notices me at all.

Nico flashback quotes

"I wrote in my diary every day at my mom's house too."

"After leaving this diary here, I used a different one at home..."



February 21st Nico

Kei-oneesan:

I didn't talk to anyone today either.
I don't have any friends at this school.

Even though I had a lot of friends at the school I went to when I lived with you.

I didn't want to transfer schools.

February 24th Thursday n co

I got a phone call from Ke -onesan today

I was so happy

I didn't tell her the truth because
I didn't want to make her worry about me.
So I just told her I was doing well.
But it is true that I feel like I have more
strength when I talk to Onee-san.

So I guess I wasn't lying?

February 29th Tuesday n co

Today my mom said

I didn't give birth to you because
I wanted to.

I felt resentful so I didn't cry.
Though I wanted to cry I held it in

Mom got ready and left looking really beautiful.
I didn't wish to be born as my mom's daughter either

I wished to be born as Ke -onesan's daughter instead.

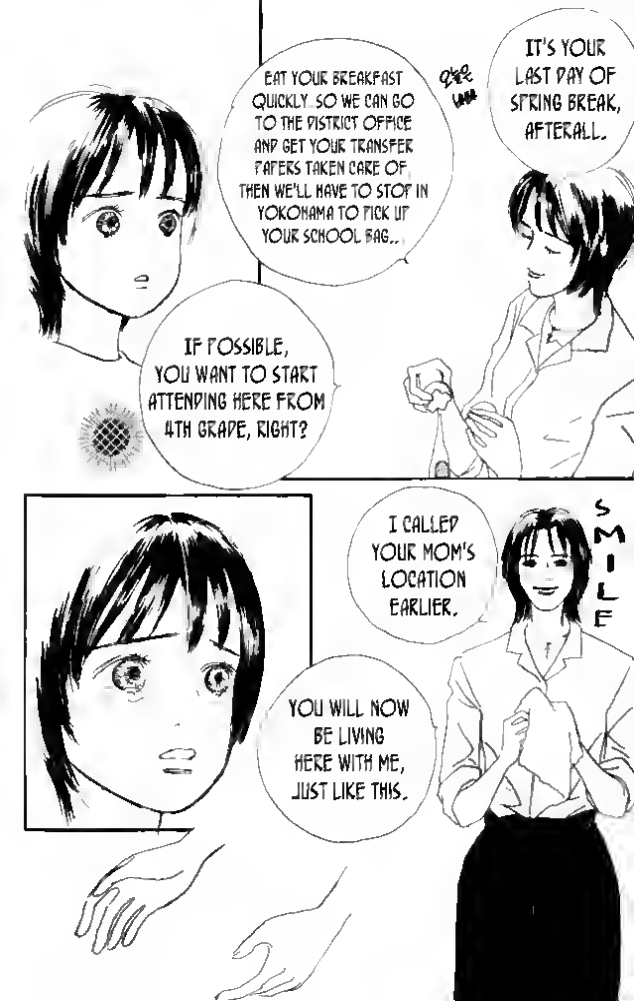
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: **MARCH 3RD MARKS THE DAY OF THE HINA MATSURI ANNUAL DOLL FESTIVAL FOR GIRLS WHERE LITTLE HINA DOLLS ARE DISPLAYED AND FAMILY MEMBERS WISH THEIR DAUGHTERS A HAPPY LIFE.

March 3rd Friday n

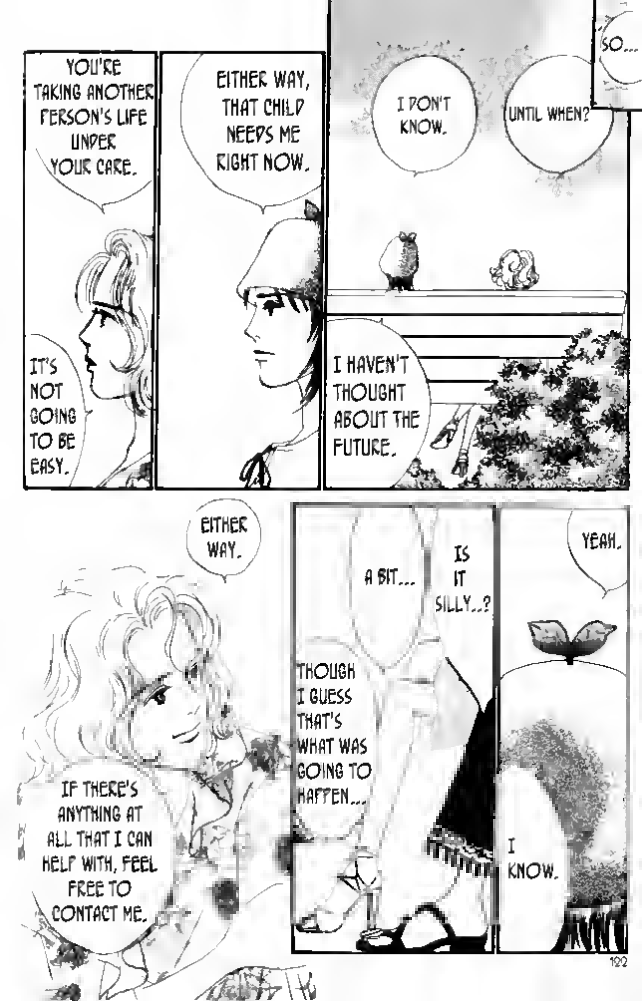
I wonder how Ke-onesan is doing.
I wonder if she's set up the Hina**doll

Nico Nico Diary

KEI-ONEESAN?
AH.
NICO, DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
TODAY ...
YOU WOKE UP EARLY.


EAT YOUR BREAKFAST QUICKLY. SO WE CAN GO TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND GET YOUR TRANSFER PAPERS TAKEN CARE OF. THEN WE'LL HAVE TO STOP IN YOKOHAMA TO PICK UP YOUR SCHOOL BAG..
IT'S YOUR LAST DAY OF SPRING BREAK, AFTERALL.
IF POSSIBLE, YOU WANT TO START ATTENDING HERE FROM 4TH GRADE, RIGHT?
I CALLED YOUR MOM'S LOCATION EARLIER.
SMILE
YOU WILL NOW BE LIVING HERE WITH ME, JUST LIKE THIS.

LET'S GET ALONG WELL TOGETHER...

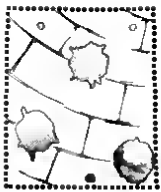

YOU'RE TAKING ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE UNDER YOUR CARE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.
EITHER WAY, THAT CHILD NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T KNOW.
UNTIL WHEN?
SO...
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE.
EITHER WAY.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING AT ALL THAT I CAN HELP WITH, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME.
A BIT...
IS IT SILLY..?
THOUGH I GUESS THAT'S WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...
YEAH.
I KNOW.

YEAH, SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL BOTH...
THAT'S THAT, BUT YOU KNOW THAT HAT... THE TREND SHOULD STOP AT NICO > AGE
SOONER OR LATER, I'LL SECURE THAT ASPECT OF IT AS WELL.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
A RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY LOVER WOULD PROBABLY BE MUCH MORE SUPPORTIVE.
IN TRUTH, RATHER THAN A FORCEFUL FRIEND LIKE ME,
FORCEFUL?
THANK YOU.
AH...
AH, IF YOU RUN LIKE THAT, YOUR ICE CREAM WILL...
AH!
AH.
HERE SHE IS.
KEI'S BELOVED NICO.

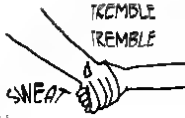
April 9th Sunday ha ha ha nico

Today, I went to the amusement park with Keironeesan and her friend, Kanako-oneesan.

Keironeesan was afraid of the rollercoaster.



She seems like she wouldn't be affected by it at all, so I was shocked.



Also, she was afraid of the haunted house.

Even though she said, "It's okay, I'm not afraid," she held my hand so tight that it got sweaty.

Therefore, in my head, I told Keironeesan, "It's okay, it's not scary at all."

Keironeesan, who has a lot of fears... If a monster comes out, I'll chase them away!!

THE VERANDA WITH CICADAS' SNEEZING.

THE MELTING CITRUS SHERBET
ON THE TABLE.

FROM A WIND-BELL GENTLY SHAKEN
BY THE WIND

SUBTLE AUTUMN'S SOUND.

TRANSLATED BY SONA
PROOFREAD BY HAN
EDITED BY SERENITY
EXTRA EDITING BY PEACHIE

NICO NICO DIARY

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AS FOR THIS KIDDO,

SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF AN ACTRESS I ONCE WORKED FOR, SHINO MIFUYU (REAL NAME, KOBAKO MIKO), WHO GAVE BIRTH TO HER AND KEPT HER HIDDEN AWAY.

KOBAKO NICO,
4TH GRADE.

I'M TAKANASHI KEI.

I'VE GONE FROM ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER TO PRESENT-DAY SCENARIO MANGA WRITER, IN ORDER TO MAKE A LIVING.

IT HAS BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I TOOK NICO IN, WITH HER MOTHER OBVIOUSLY LACKING IN TERMS OF MOTHERHOOD, BEING BOTH SINGLE AND INEXPERIENCED IN CHILD-REARING.

AUGUST

DURING OUR FIRST SUMMER VACATION TOGETHER

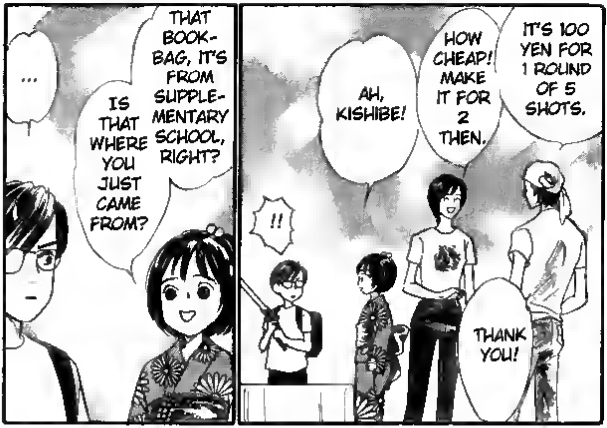
WE PLAYED TO OUR HEARTS CONTENT

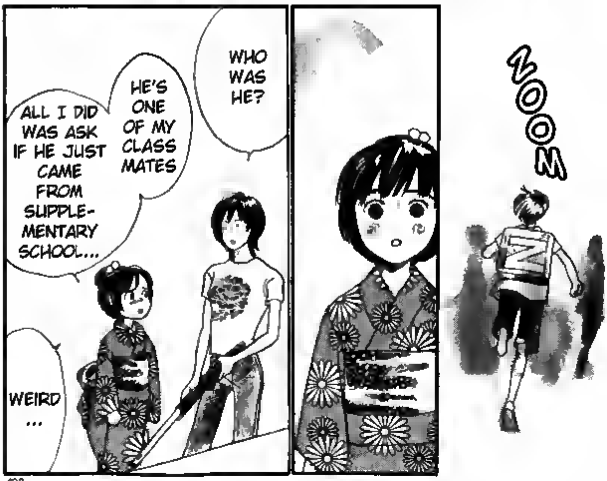
CAMPING & CANOES

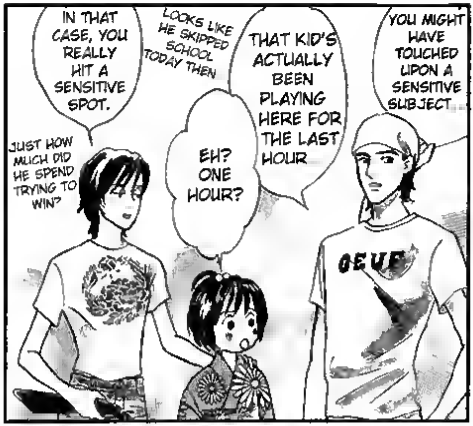
KYAA
KYAA
KYAA
SWIMMING POOL
AMUSEMENT PARK

SUMMER FESTIVAL
HMM?
ONEE-SAN! ONEE-SAN!
I WANT TO TRY THAT THING!!

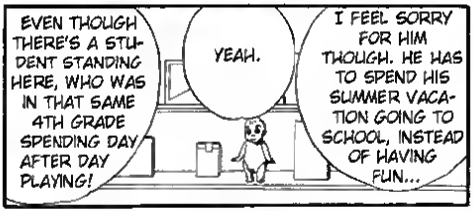
POP
SHOOTING FOR PRIZES? OF COURSE!
POP
POP
THUD


...
IS THAT WHERE YOU JUST CAME FROM?
THAT BOOK-BAG, IT'S FROM SUPPLE-MENTARY SCHOOL, RIGHT?
!!
AH, KISHIBE!
HOW CHEAP! MAKE IT FOR 2 THEN.
IT'S 100 YEN FOR 1 ROUND OF 5 SHOTS.
THANK YOU!

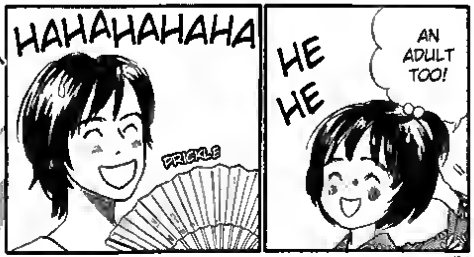

WHO WAS HE?
HE'S ONE OF MY CLASS MATES
ALL I DID WAS ASK IF HE JUST CAME FROM SUPPLE-MENTARY SCHOOL...
WEIRD ...
NOOM


IN THAT CASE, YOU REALLY HIT A SENSITIVE SPOT.
LOOKS LIKE HE SKIPPED SCHOOL TODAY THEN
THAT KID'S ACTUALLY BEEN PLAYING HERE FOR THE LAST HOUR
YOU MIGHT HAVE TOUCHED UPON A SENSITIVE SUBJECT.
JUST HOW MUCH DID HE SPEND TRYING TO WIN?
EH? ONE HOUR?

...AND DESPITE LAUGHING ABOUT IT

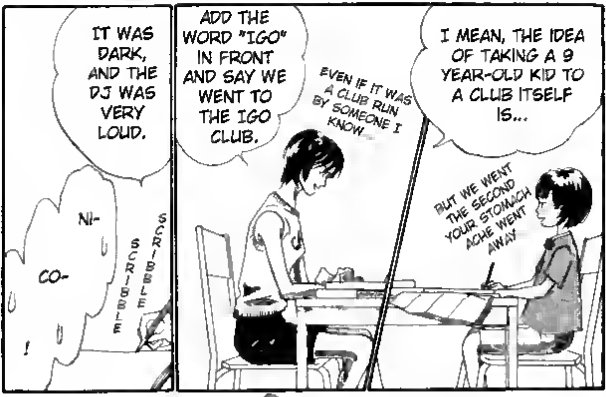

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A STUDENT STANDING HERE, WHO WAS IN THAT SAME 4TH GRADE SPENDING DAY AFTER DAY PLAYING!
YEAH.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM THOUGH. HE HAS TO SPEND HIS SUMMER VACATION GOING TO SCHOOL, INSTEAD OF HAVING FUN...

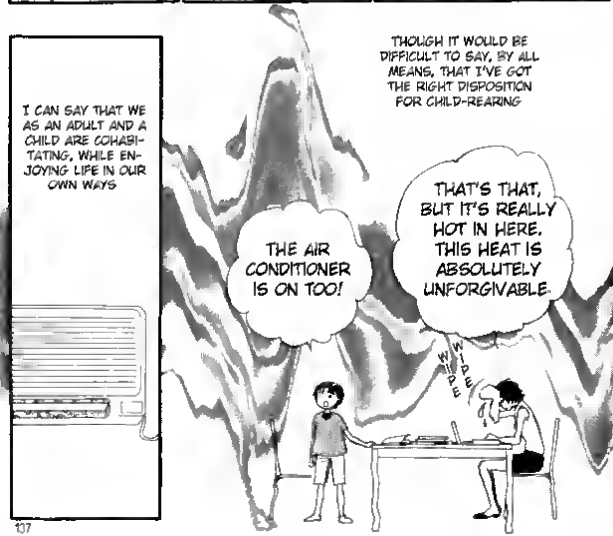
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



NICO ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR PERSONAL JOURNAL?
I'M WORKING ON IT NOW!!
THE PRICE TO PAY...
WHILE AUGUST IS ALMOST OVER,
IS THE SCRIPT COMPLETED?
I'M WORKING ON IT NOW.
AUGUST 13TH... AUGUST 13TH...
IT'S LIKE A JUNKYARD IN HERE...
ACK! I'M SO IRRITATED...
HMM- ON AUGUST 13TH..

YOU CAN LEAVE STUFF LIKE THAT OUT!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE 13TH WAS THE DAY KEI-ONEESAN HAD A STOMACH ACHE, AND WE HAD A TOUGH TIME!!
BECAUSE SHE ATE TOO MANY COLD THINGS!
HM...
EXCHANGE ARCHIVES
AH!
THAT'S IT! I SHOULD LOOK IN THE EXCHANGE DIARIES!
JOURNAL
YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PART OUT TOO!
THEN YOU WENT TO A CLUB AT NIGHT.
IT SOUNDS STRANGE IF I'M GOING OUT AT NIGHT LIKE THAT WHEN I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SICK WITH A COLD.
YOU CAN JUST WRITE ABOUT YOUR STUFF THEN.
BUT I HAVE TO WRITE ABOUT EACH DAY.
BUT ALL I DID THAT DAY WAS NURSE YOU, KEI-ONEESAN.
THEN SAY IT WAS A COLD! A SUMMER COLD!

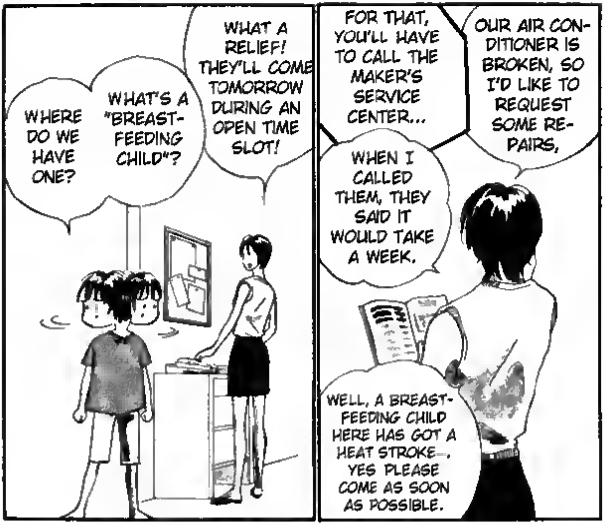

IT WAS DARK, AND THE DJ WAS VERY LOUD.
NI-
CO-
!
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
ADD THE WORD "IGO" IN FRONT AND SAY WE WENT TO THE IGO CLUB.
EVEN IF IT WAS A CLUB RUN BY SOMEONE I KNOW...
I MEAN, THE IDEA OF TAKING A 9 YEAR-OLD KID TO A CLUB ITSELF IS...
BUT WE WENT THE SECOND YOUR STOMACH ACHE WENT AWAY

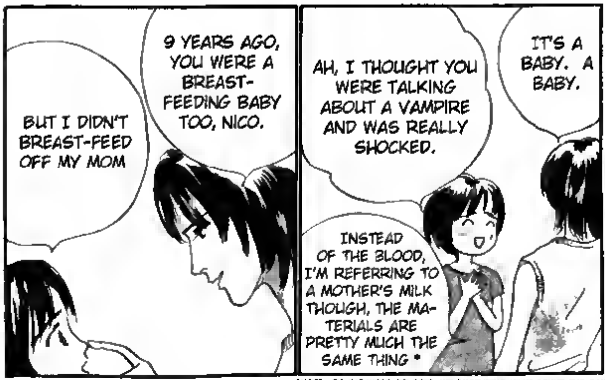

I CAN SAY THAT WE AS AN ADULT AND A CHILD ARE COHABITATING, WHILE ENJOYING LIFE IN OUR OWN WAYS
THOUGH IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SAY, BY ALL MEANS, THAT I'VE GOT THE RIGHT DISPOSITION FOR CHILD-REARING
THE AIR CONDITIONER IS ON TOO!
THAT'S THAT, BUT IT'S REALLY HOT IN HERE. THIS HEAT IS ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVABLE.
WIPE
WIPE

THERE'S NO COLD AIR COMING OUT OF IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NICO?

WHAT?

HELLO. SORACHI ELECTRIC
IT'S OKAY!
WE CAN GET IT REPAIRED!
THUD
EVEN THE AIR CONDI-TIONER HAS ABANDONED ME...

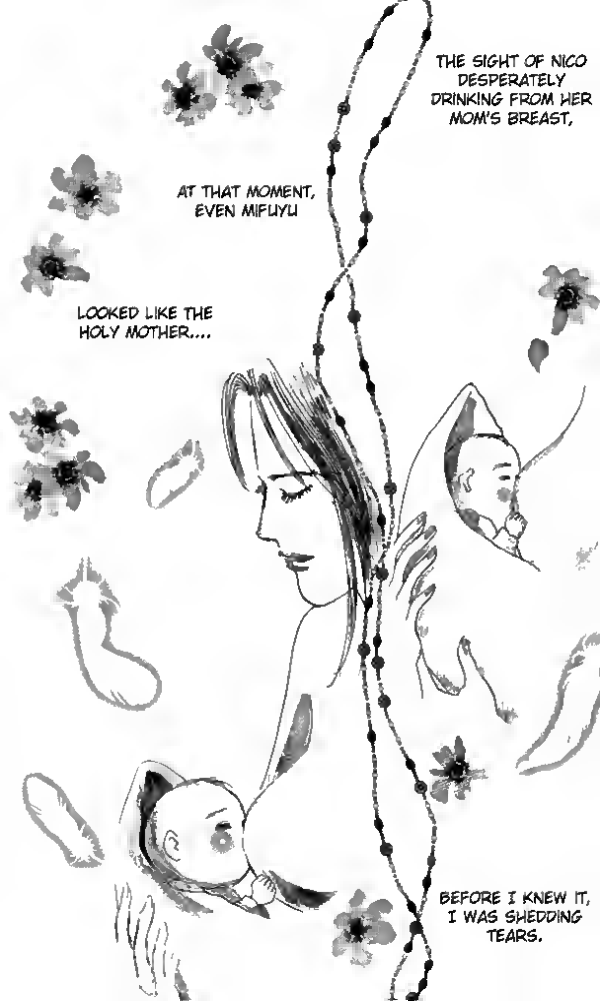

WHAT A RELIEF! THEY'LL COME TOMORROW DURING AN OPEN TIME SLOT!
WHAT'S A "BREAST-FEEDING CHILD"?
WHERE DO WE HAVE ONE?
OUR AIR CONDITIONER IS BROKEN, SO I'D LIKE TO REQUEST SOME REPAIRS,
FOR THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL THE MAKER'S SERVICE CENTER...
WHEN I CALLED THEM, THEY SAID IT WOULD TAKE A WEEK.
WELL, A BREAST-FEEDING CHILD HERE HAS GOT A HEAT STROKE... YES PLEASE COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

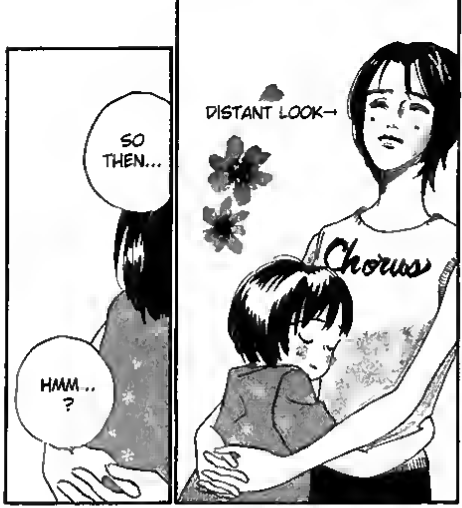

9 YEARS AGO, YOU WERE A BREAST-FEEDING BABY TOO, NICO.
BUT I DIDN'T BREAST-FEED OFF MY MOM
IT'S A BABY. A BABY.
AH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A VAMPIRE AND WAS REALLY SHOCKED.
INSTEAD OF THE BLOOD, I'M REFERRING TO A MOTHER'S MILK THOUGH, THE MATERIALS ARE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING *

*NOTE IN JAPANESE, "BLOOD" AND "MOTHER'S MILK" SOUND THE SAME

I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
A NEWLY BORN NICO.
I SAW YOU DRINKING YOUR MOM'S MILK IN A HOSPITAL IN HAWAII...
FROWN...
YOU DID...

"MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU GIVE HER THE VERY FIRST MILK CAREFULLY, MIFUYU-SAN,"
KEI IN HER MANAGER DAYS
"BECAUSE IT'S RICH IN IMMUNITY INGREDIENTS!"
THAT'S RIGHT I REMEMBER CLEARLY
YES ...
MOM...
REALLY?
"GOOD GIRL. IF YOU WAIT A LITTLE BIT, MOM WILL FEED YOU HER MILK."
"THE MILK ISN'T COMING OUT WELL..."
"I KNOW THAT STUFF TOO... QUIT CHATTERING."
"AH! YOU CAN'T HOLD HER LIKE THAT."
DANDLE


THE SIGHT OF NICO DESPERATELY DRINKING FROM HER MOM'S BREAST,
AT THAT MOMENT, EVEN MIFUYU
LOOKED LIKE THE HOLY MOTHER....
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SHEDDING TEARS.


SO THEN...
HMM.. ?
DISTANT LOOK→
Chorus

SIGH
...
WHERE IS THIS "BREAST-FEEDING CHILD"?
LOOK
LOOK
Chorus

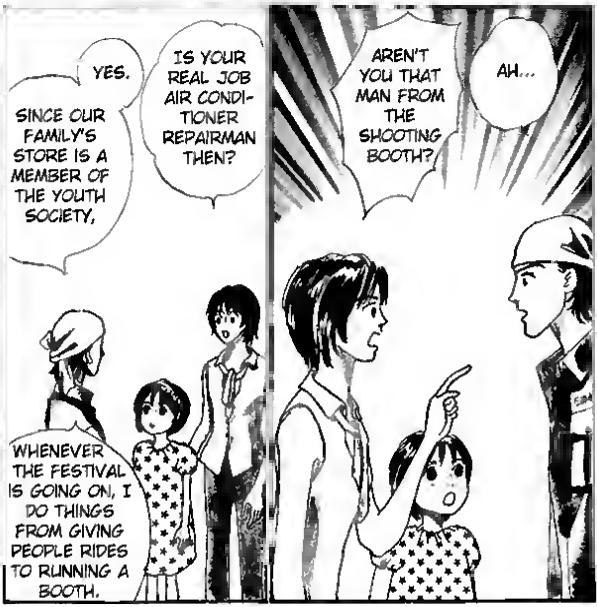
BLAZE
THE AIR CONDITIONER REPAIRMAN IS COMING TODAY.. RIGHT?
TICK
YEAH.
IF WE JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...
TICK
TICK
DO WE STILL HAVE TO WAIT LONG..?
TICK
TICK
YEAH...
TICK
THEY AGREED TO COME WHEN THEY HAVE A SPARE MOMENT BETWEEN OTHER REPAIRS...
ｴﾝｴﾝ
ｴﾝｴﾝ

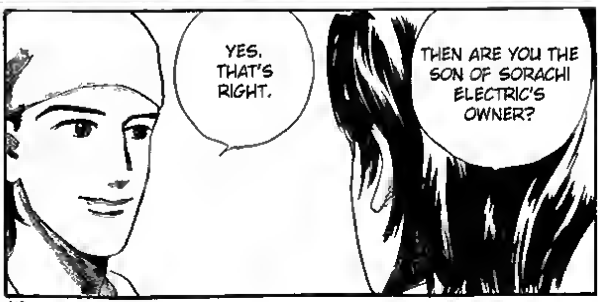
OH YEAH! I HAD A REALLY BAD DREAM LAST NIGHT.
WHAT SORT OF DREAM?
I DREAMT THAT I WENT TO SCHOOL, AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HADN'T DONE THE HOMEWORK.
SOUNDS JUST LIKE REALITY. GEEZ.
I HAD A SCARY DREAM AS WELL.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I WAS TRYING TO CROSS A REALLY SHAKY BRIDGE IN THE MOUNTAINS. AND

I WAS HANGING OFF A CLIFF IN THE DREAM
THE BRIDGE BROKE WHILE I WAS CROSS-ING.

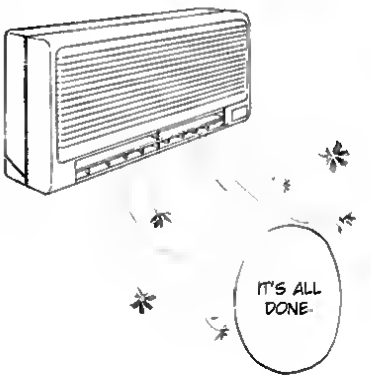
THERE WAS THIS HUGE TERRIFYING TURTLE LOOKING UP IN MY DIRECTION .
WHEN I NERVOUSLY LOOKED BELOW ME,

I THINK IT FEELS A LITTLE COOLER NOW...
IN TERMS OF MOOD AT LEAST...
SHALL WE SAY IT FEELS CHILLY.
LET ME TELL YOU, I WAS SO HORRI-FIED...
A TUR . TURTLE...?
WHAT SORT OF TURTLE?
GULP
DING DONG
HE'S HERE!!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
I'M FROM SORACHI ELECTRIC.

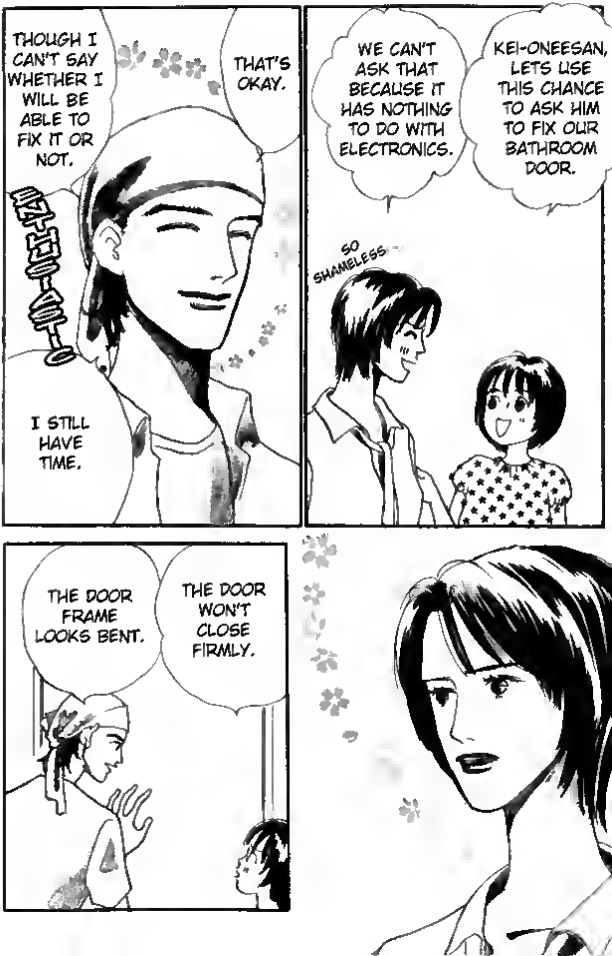

AH...
AREN'T YOU THAT MAN FROM THE SHOOTING BOOTH?
IS YOUR REAL JOB AIR CONDITIONER REPAIRMAN THEN?
YES.
SINCE OUR FAMILY'S STORE IS A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SOCIETY,
WHENEVER THE FESTIVAL IS GOING ON, I DO THINGS FROM GIVING PEOPLE RIDES TO RUNNING A BOOTH.


THEN ARE YOU THE SON OF SORACHI ELECTRIC'S OWNER?
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

PLEASE CLEAN THE FILTER WHENEVER YOU GET A CHANCE.
DEPENDING ON THE CONDITION OF THE FILTER, THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MACHINE WILL VARY.
KSSSHICK
IS THIS IT?
YES.


IT'S ALL DONE.
SO EMBARASSING.
OKAY...
COUGH

WELL THEN,
AH-♡
FEELS SO GOOD-♡
IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE PROBLEMS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE US A CALL AT ANY TIME
SORACHI ELECTRIC
EH? THEN HOW ABOUT NOW!!


KEI-ONEESAN, LETS USE THIS CHANCE TO ASK HIM TO FIX OUR BATHROOM DOOR.
WE CAN'T ASK THAT BECAUSE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ELECTRONICS.
SO SHAMELESS
THAT'S OKAY.
THOUGH I CAN'T SAY WHETHER I WILL BE ABLE TO FIX IT OR NOT.
I STILL HAVE TIME.
THE DOOR WON'T CLOSE FIRMLY.
THE DOOR FRAME LOOKS BENT.

HAVE SOME OOLONG TEA.
THANK YOU.
SORACHI ELECTRIC
AH, THANK YOU.
ALL DONE.
WOW
THAT WAS FAST.
CLAP CLAP
THANK YOU FOR THE DRINK!
CLATTER
REFRESHING!
GULP

WHAT IS THIS SUDDEN REFRESHING BREEZE THAT'S COME OVER THE ROOM AND MY MIND?
SLAM
WHAT A REALLY GREAT BACHELOR!
THEN HAVE A NICE DAY.
THANK YOU!
TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HE WAS PRETTY CUTE!
1 MOST IMPORTANT POINT
YUP!
ISN'T IT NICE HAVING THE BATHROOM DOOR FIXED TOO, KEI-ONEESAN?
ALRIGHT!
LET'S RECHARGE!

OSU!
IT'S THE LAST STRETCH! FIGHT-OH!
THE PROBLEMS THEN, OF COURSE, ARE THAT HE'S MUCH YOUNGER THAN I, BUT ALSO,
WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL HIS HAIRSTYLE THAT HE'S HIDING UNDER THE TOWEL?
MAYBE HE'S BALD?
HAVING A BALD SUPERVISOR IN KIMURA-SAN IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
BUT YOU KNOW...
COULDN'T THAT GUY BE ASSUMING THAT YOU'RE A HOUSEWIFE?

-THE FIRST AUTUMN WINDS BEGAN TO BLOW
YES.
THAT WILL BE FINE.
KIMURA-SAN, THE EDITOR
NOT ONLY NICO, BUT
AREN'T THEY ALSO ASSUMING YOU'VE GOT A BREAST-FEEDING BABY AT HOME, WHO IS WEAK FROM HEAT?
AT THIS TIME-
THAT'S TRUE...!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO TELL SUCH A USELESS LIE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
CONNIVING WOMAN

THE HOT SUMMER CAME TO AN END.

AND NOW...

I GUESS KIMURA-SAN WAS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THAT HUGE TURTLE ..

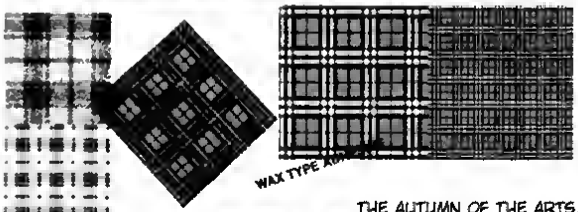
I'M VERY VERY SORRY

I'M SORRY.

YES SIR..

I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BE A BIT QUICKER NEXT TIME AND PERHAPS, GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO THE MANGA-KA WHO HAS TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE CONTENT

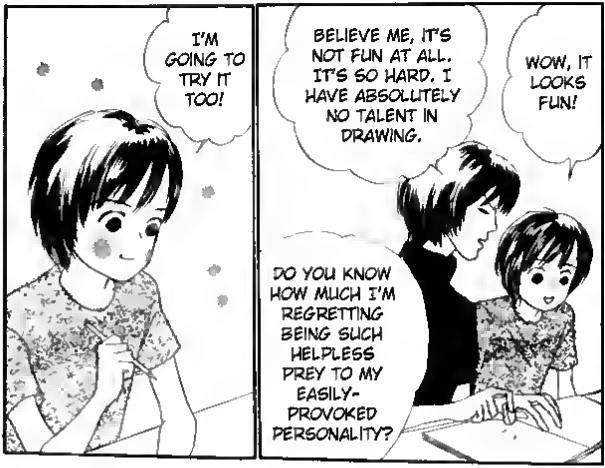
SEPTEMBER



THE AUTUMN OF THE ARTS.

FOR THE BEST CREATIVE WORK YOU NEED THE BEST MATERIALS.

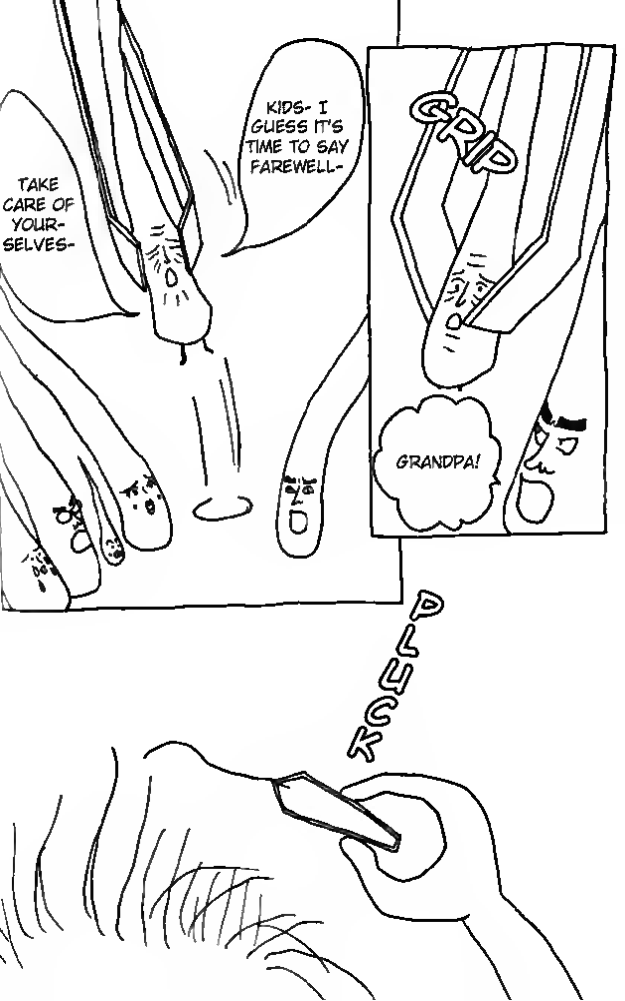
*NOTE: A CONTI IS GENERALLY A SCRIPT.
WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING, ONEE-SAN?
THE CONTI FOR A MANGA.
CONTI? WHAT'S CONTI?
A CONTI IS LIKE THE BASIC GROUND-WORK OF A MANGA.
THIS TIME, I TOLD THEM I WOULD DO IT DIFFERENTLY THAN USUAL AND WRITE IN THIS FORM.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THIS?
AS PER THE DEMANDS (REVENGE) OF THE MANGA-KA.
MANGA-KA ASAHI NOBORU

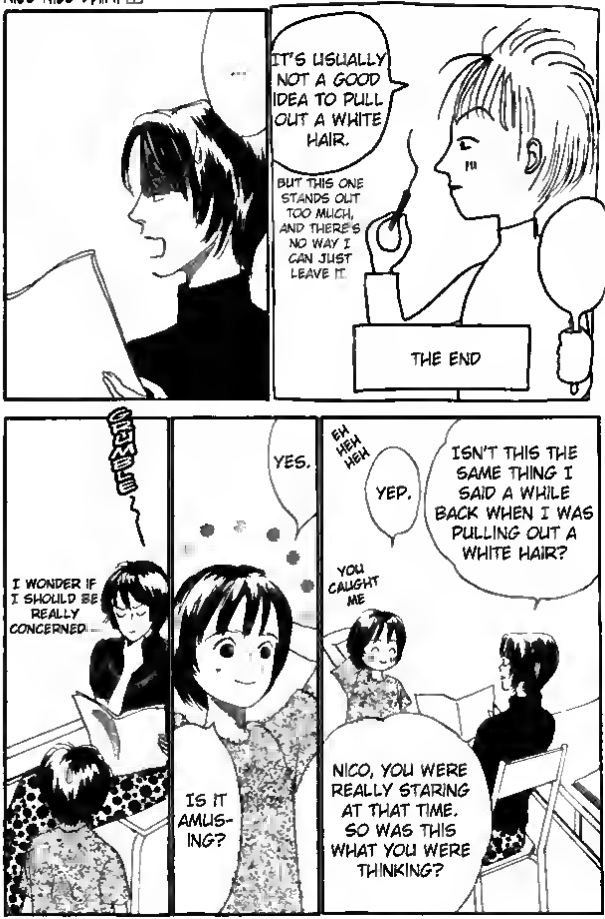

I'M GOING TO TRY IT TOO!
BELIEVE ME, IT'S NOT FUN AT ALL. IT'S SO HARD. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO TALENT IN DRAWING.
WOW, IT LOOKS FUN!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'M REGRETTING BEING SUCH HELPLESS PREY TO MY EASILY-PROVOKED PERSONALITY?

THE HOUR OF CREATIVITY

I STILL HAVE...
I'LL LOOK LATER.
LOOK, LOOK, ONEE-SAN!
EH?
FINISHED!
CROWD
SWARM
CROWD
IN A FOREST SOMEWHERE, THERE LIVED A CERTAIN FAMILY.

WHAT IS THIS? SO WEIRD.
GUUP
ONEE-CHAN
DAD
BABY
MOM
GRANDPA
ONII-CHAN
THIS FAMILY GETS ALONG EXTREMELY WELL.
IT WOULD BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU, GRANDPA.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU HAVE TO LIVE A LONG, LONG TIME.
FATHER, PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO SLOWLY MAKE MY WAY UP TO HEAVEN AND REUNITE WITH GRANDMA.
A MESSENGER CAME DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS.
AH!
SO ONE DAY AS WE LOOKED UP INTO THE SKY...


KIDS- I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SAY FAREWELL-
TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELVES-
GRIP
GRANDPA!
PLUCK


...
IT'S USUALLY NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PULL OUT A WHITE HAIR.
BUT THIS ONE STANDS OUT TOO MUCH, AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST LEAVE IT.
THE END
I WONDER IF I SHOULD BE REALLY CONCERNED...
GRUMBLE
YES.
IS IT AMUSING?
EH HEH HEH
YEP.
ISN'T THIS THE SAME THING I SAID A WHILE BACK WHEN I WAS PULLING OUT A WHITE HAIR?
YOU CAUGHT ME
NICO, YOU WERE REALLY STARING AT THAT TIME. SO WAS THIS WHAT YOU WERE THINKING?

THAT KID.... SHE LOST HER GRAND-MOTHER WHO RAISED HER IN HAKATA DURING ALL 8 YEARS OF HER LIFE ....
A BIT DRASTIC. THIS CHILD.
CONSIDERING WE GET "SPLITS" IN OUR HAIR STRANDS JUST ABOUT EVERY TIME WE EITHER SHAMPOO OR BRUSH....
WOW. SCARY
WHAT ...?
BUT THIS IS JUST A COMIC!
AFTER SEEING THIS SHORT LITTLE COMIC
DON... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THINKING IT OUT THAT FAR JUST FROM READING THIS?
YOU'RE TAKING THIS WAY TOO SERI-OUSLY, KEI!
I GUESS SHE HAS THAT LIN-GERING MEMORY FROM HER PAST.
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, I ALMOST WONDER IF SHE WANTS TO GO BACK TO LIVING WITH HER MOM.

THAT CHILD LOST HER GRANDMA, WHO SHE LOVED THE MOST. AFTER THAT, HER MOM'S LACK OF AFFECTION FOR HER DIDN'T CHANGE. SO NOW, SHE'S LIVING WITH A STRANGER...
BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT I'M NOTHING BUT A STRANGER.
AND WHEN I LOOKED IN THAT MANGA AND SAW A FATHER, A MOTHER, AN OLDER SISTER, AN OLDER BROTHER, A BABY, A GRANDPA, AND A GRANDMA....
I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS EARNESTLY ADMIRING THAT SENSE OF FAMILY....
ADMIRATION IS JUST ADMIRATION.
IF SHE LIKES THE IDEA OF A LARGE FAMILY, SHE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR HERSELF AS AN ADULT.
SHE CAN GET MARRIED AND HAVE LOTS OF KIDS....
WELL, EVEN THOUGH NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE MANAGED TO HAVE EVEN ONE KID YET.
WE PROMISED NOT TO DISCUSS THAT SUBJECT

TAKAN-ASHI KEI-SAN.
THEN I'M SURE THAT KID FEELS THE SAME WAY.
I ALWAYS THINK THAT WAY, BUT...
EITHER WAY, SINCE SHE'S LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW,
WHETHER IT'S FAKE OR YOU'RE COPYING, AS LONG AS IT FEELS RIGHT.
YOU CAN BE HER FAMILY THEN, RIGHT?
YES?
HELLO.
AH...!
I'M SORA-CHI.
Come ride with us surf peace

HOW IS THE AIR CONDITIONER SINCE I LEFT?
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE TODAY OFF.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE SINCE YOU DIDN'T WEAR THE TOWEL ON YOUR HEAD.
IF IT GIVES YOU ANY MORE PROBLEMS, LET ME KNOW AT ANYTIME
WE HAVEN'T USED IT AS OFTEN SINCE IT'S GOTTEN CHILLIER, BUT THANKS TO YOU, IT'S WORKING WELL.
I WILL. THANK YOU.

AH. HE JUST SAT DOWN AT THAT TABLE.
YEAH.
THAT THE GUY YOU MENTIONED —?
WHAT DID YOU THINK? DOESN'T HE SEEM LIKE A NICE GUY?
YEAH.. HE DOES...
ASKING HIM TO SIT WITH US WHEN ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IS THAT HE REPAIRED MY AIR CONDITIONER ONCE
NO WAY. HOW COULD WE HAVE?
SHOULD WE HAVE ASKED HIM TO SIT WITH US?
AH.

I'M SORRY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?
THEN AGAIN, TO BE HONEST, HE IS A BIT YOUNG.
TSUUUUZOOO
S-OI.
DON'T TELL ME THAT NOW...
NICO, ARE YOU DRAWING ANOTHER MANGA?
NO.
I'M GOING TO DRAW ON THE COVER OF OUR EXCHANGE DIARY.
SINCE IT LOOKS EMPTY WITH NOTHING ON THERE.

IN THE END
WOW, IT LOOKS COOL!
SHOULD WE COLOR IT TO-GETH-ER?!
Exchange Diary
I'M COLORING IT RIGHT NOW.
Kei & Nico
YEAH!
BECAUSE THIS DIARY BELONGS TO BOTH OF US.
I SEE YOU'RE GOOD AT DRAWING CUTE CHARAC-TERS TOO
THANK GOODNESS IT'S NOT ANOTHER HARD-TO-LIKE CHAR-ACTER...

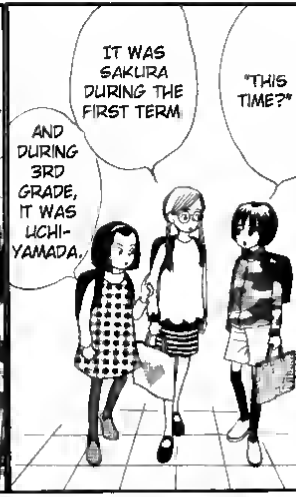
NICO NICO DIARY

TRANSLATED BY: SONA
EDITED BY: DUNCE
WWW.FURINKAZAN.US

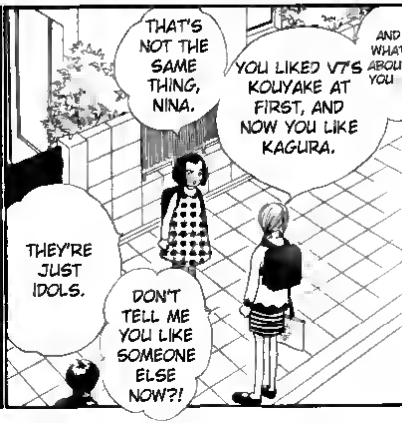
風林火山

IN THE EVENINGS, LONGER SHADOWS.
AUTUMN HAS VIVIDLY DEEPENED.
OCTOBER
IT LOOKS LIKE MIYUKI'S GOING TO GO FOR TANOUE THIS TIME.
THE TWO KIDS WALKING AHEAD ARE MIYUKI AND TANOUE FROM THE FIRST CLASS.

NO. SHE'S JUST WHIMSICAL.
I SEE- THAT MIYUKI PERSON IS PRETTY POPULAR.
YEAH SINCE THE PERSON SHE LIKES CONSTANTLY CHANGES.
WHAT A JOKE

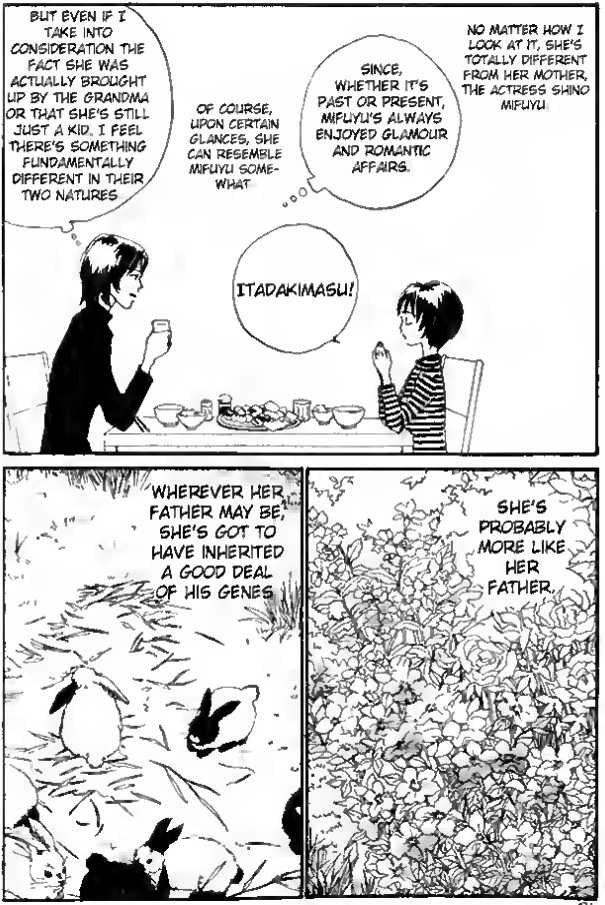

IT WAS SAKURA DURING THE FIRST TERM
"THIS TIME?"
AND DURING 3RD GRADE, IT WAS UCHI-YAMADA.

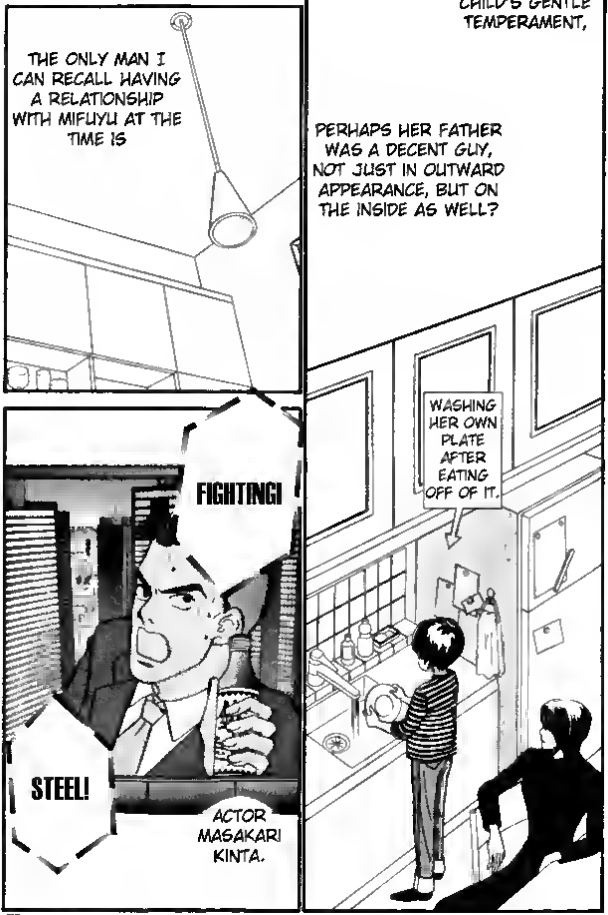
...


THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING, NINA.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU
YOU LIKED V'S KOUYAKE AT FIRST, AND NOW YOU LIKE KAGURA.
THEY'RE JUST IDOLS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE NOW?!

AT ANY RATE, IT'S REALLY CHILDISH.
WHAT IS?
CHILDISH?
YOU DON'T JUST START TO LIKE PEOPLE THAT EASILY AND SO FREQUENTLY, RIGHT?
I THINK THEY'RE ALL CHANGING THEIR MINDS TOO EASILY.
THAT MEANS THEY DON'T REALLY LIKE THEM.

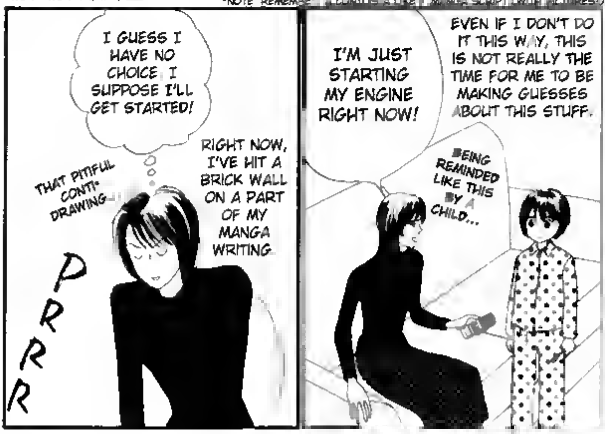
TSK, TSK-
WHAT ABOUT RYOUJI AND TETSU?
NO...
IS THERE A BOY NICO-CHAN LIKES?
HOOO-
AND SO?
I DON'T LIKE THOSE BIG-SCALE TYPES.
BIG-SCALE?
YEAH. EVERY TIME I SEE HIM, HE'S SHOWING OFF.
THEN HOW ABOUT THAT BOY WITH THE GLASSES WE SAW SHOOTING AT THE SUMMER FESTIVAL?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WITH THEM.
EGO
THIS CHILD...
YOU MEAN "BIG-HEADED."


BUT EVEN IF I TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT SHE WAS ACTUALLY BROUGHT UP BY THE GRANDMA OR THAT SHE'S STILL JUST A KID, I FEEL THERE'S SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT IN THEIR TWO NATURES
OF COURSE, UPON CERTAIN GLANCES, SHE CAN RESEMBLE MIFUYU SOMEWHAT
SINCE, WHETHER IT'S PAST OR PRESENT, MIFUYU'S ALWAYS ENJOYED GLAMOUR AND ROMANTIC AFFAIRS.
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, SHE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HER MOTHER, THE ACTRESS SHINO MIFUYU.
ITADAKIMASU!
WHEREVER HER FATHER MAY BE, SHE'S GOT TO HAVE INHERITED A GOOD DEAL OF HIS GENES
SHE'S PROBABLY MORE LIKE HER FATHER.


THE ONLY MAN I CAN RECALL HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH MIFUYU AT THE TIME IS
FIGHTING!
STEEL!
ACTOR MASAKARI KINTA.
JUDGING BY THIS CHILD'S GENTLE TEMPERAMENT,
PERHAPS HER FATHER WAS A DECENT GUY, NOT JUST IN OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT ON THE INSIDE AS WELL?
WASHING HER OWN PLATE AFTER EATING OFF OF IT.

HOW DO YOU DO.
TODAY'S GUEST HAS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL FIGURE IN EXPANDING THE THEATRICAL BREADTH OF MOVIES...
YAMAGIWA RYOUSUKE, ALSO AN ACTOR
THEY APPEARED TOGETHER IN A FEW DRAMAS AND
HE DID ACTIVELY TRY TO SEDUCE MIFUYU AS BEFITTING HIS GLAMOROUS CAREER.
THEY WERE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS SINCE THEY DEBUTED TOGETHER
THOUGH HE'S ALREADY MARRIED TO A DIFFERENT ACTRESS AND HAS TWO KIDS NOW.
CHOKE
DON'T YOU HAVE TO WORK?
KEI-ONEESAN, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING TV SINCE EARLIER.

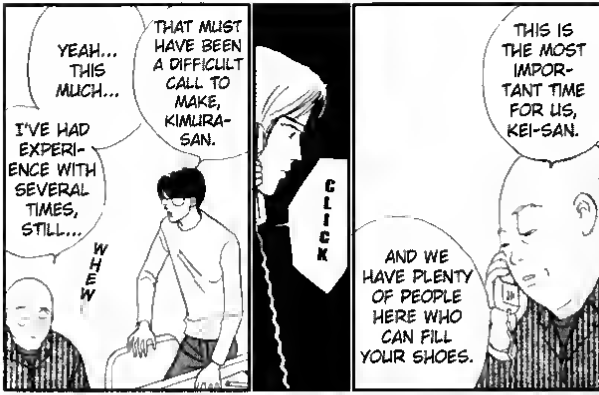
*NOTE: REMEMBER, A CONTU IS A LIKE A MANGA SCRIPT (WITH PICTURES!)


I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE. I SUPPOSE I'LL GET STARTED!
THAT PITIFUL CONTI-DRAWING...
RIGHT NOW, I'VE HIT A BRICK WALL ON A PART OF MY MANGA WRITING.
PRRR
I'M JUST STARTING MY ENGINE RIGHT NOW!
EVEN IF I DON'T DO IT THIS WAY, THIS IS NOT REALLY THE TIME FOR ME TO BE MAKING GUESSES ABOUT THIS STUFF.
BEING REMINDED LIKE THIS BY A CHILD...

WELL, ABOUT THAT...
THE MANGA-KA ASAHI-SENSEI SAID THAT START-ING NEXT TIME, HE WILL WRITE THE SCRIPT DIRECTLY...
I'M KIMURA FROM "YOUTH CHALLENGER."
HELLO?
AH, I'M WORKING ON IT RIGHT NOW.
GETTING STARTED, TO BE EXACT.

PARDON ME?
I'M SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN, BUT ASAHI-SENSEI SAYS THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM...
FOR THE SAKE OF INCREASING THE RATINGS FROM CUSTOMER RESPONSES, THEY MADE THE OFFICIAL DECISION OVERSEAS TO DO IT THIS WAY.
WAIT A SECOND.
WE HAD A MEETING JUST LAST WEEK, WHERE WE DETERMINED THAT I WOULD BE PUTTING TOGETHER 3 MORE SETS IN THE FUTURE, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF THE NEW CHARACTER WE DISCUSSED!
AH, DIDN'T THAT HAPPEN TO BE THE DAY RIGHT BEFORE YOUR FRIEND'S DAUGHTER WAS GOING TO THAT ATHLETIC MEET?
WASN'T HER NAME NICO?
DID SHE DO WELL AT THAT ATHLETIC MEET?
SHE CAME IN FIRST PLACE IN RACING ...
ANY-WAY,
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING SO LAXLY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
IS THAT SO, KEI-SAN.

YOU, NO DOUBT, HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO OFFER, KEI-SAN.
AND THAT IS WHY I ACTIVELY BACKED YOU AND STARTED PUBLISHING YOUR WORK.
HOWEVER, EVER SINCE THAT NICO CHILD APPEARED, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU PUT OFF THE COMPLETION OF YOUR WORK TO THE LAST MINUTE?
ASAHI-SENSEI WAS IN A POSITION WHERE HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET WELL-ENGAGED WITH THE SCRIPT, MUCH LESS HAVE TIME TO DIGEST THE SCOPE OF IDEAS THEREIN.
IN ESSENCE, "NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO BE PLAYING WITH A LITTLE KID." IS PRECISELY THE POINT.

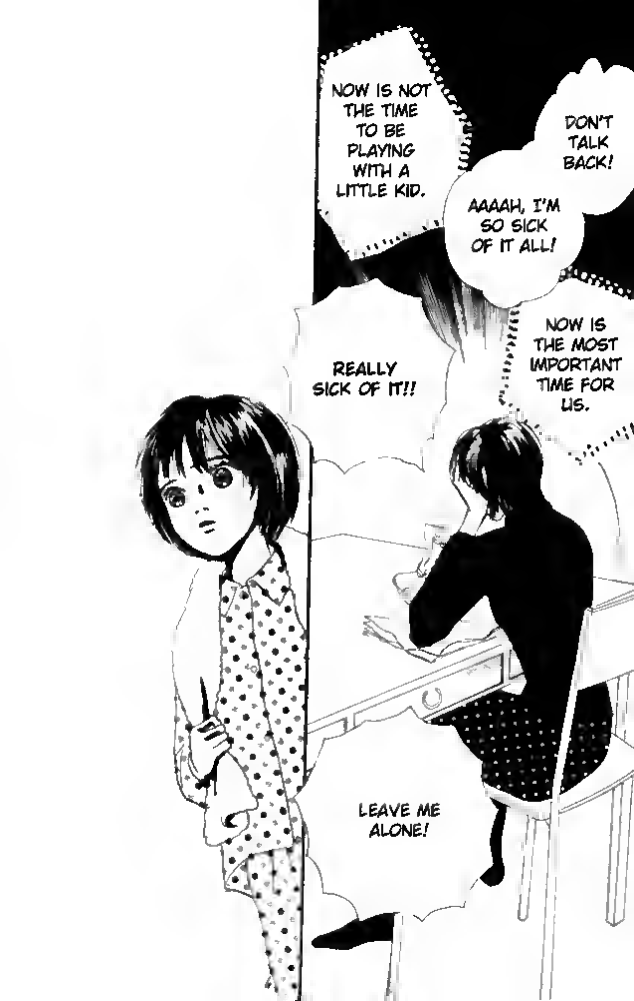

YEAH... THIS MUCH...
I'VE HAD EXPERI-ENCE WITH SEVERAL TIMES, STILL...
WHEW
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A DIFFICULT CALL TO MAKE, KIMURA-SAN.
CLICK
THIS IS THE MOST IMPOR-TANT TIME FOR US, KEI-SAN.
AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF PEOPLE HERE WHO CAN FILL YOUR SHOES.

I JUST GOT FIRED...

LOOK AT THIS!
I WAS WASHING MY FACE, AND LOOK HOW BIG THE SOAP SUDS GOT!
ONEE-SAN. ONEE-SAN.
OVER ONE TELEPHONE CALL, I LOST MY JOB SQUARELY.
ALL THE KIDS CRAWLED AROUND LIKE THIS.
...
WE EXPLORED UNDERNEATH THE WOODEN FLOOR AT SCHOOL TODAY.
SINCE RYOUJI SAID THERE'S A TIME CAPSULE BURIED THERE.

TO LOOK IMPRESSIVE.
ALRIGHT, I SEE IT, SO GO TO BED.
KEI-ONEESAN ...?
ONEE-SAN HAS TO GO DO SOME WORK RIGHT NOW.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE PLAYING WITH A LITTLE KID...
AH!
A RING-SHAPED CLOUD!!
YOSHIHIKO

RIP...
RIIIIP
WHY ARE YOUR TEARING IT, ONEE-SAN?
YOU PUT EFFORT INTO DRAWING IT. ISN'T IT A WASTE?
YOU'RE STILL NOT IN BED?
WELL, I JUST...


NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE PLAYING WITH A LITTLE KID.
DON'T TALK BACK!
AAAAH, I'M SO SICK OF IT ALL!
NOW IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME FOR US.
REALLY SICK OF IT!!
LEAVE ME ALONE!

SHUT

WHAT DID....
RIGHT NOW, AREN'T I ACTING THE SAME AS HER MOTHER IS?
"YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THAT KID STAY WITH YOU?"
I JUST SAY...?

IN A FOREST, THERE WAS A BABY BEAR CUB.

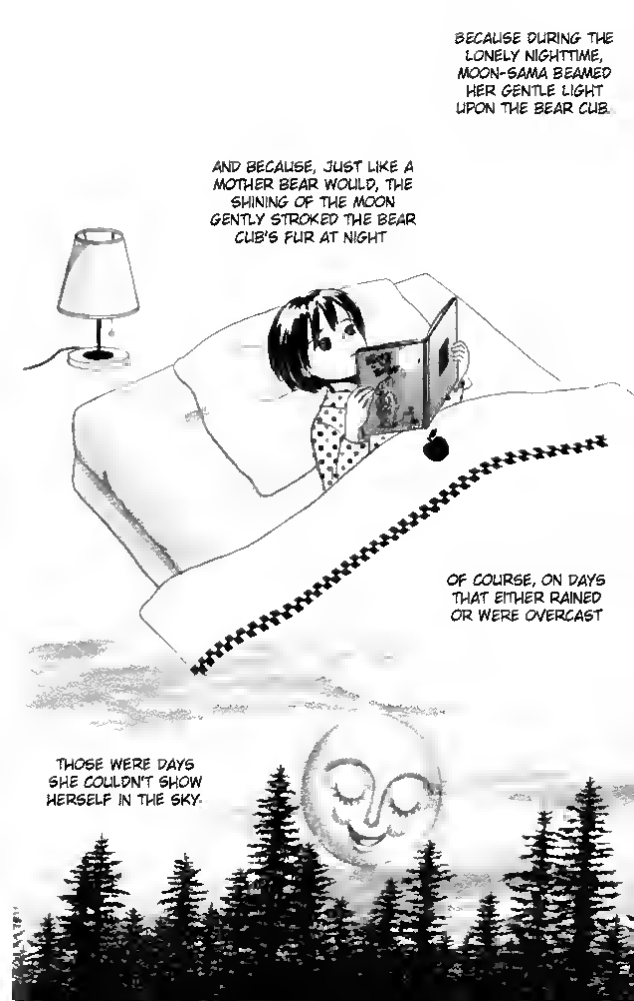
THE BEAR CUB WAS ALL ALONE TO FEND FOR ITSELF.

HOWEVER, THAT WAS JUST FINE WITH THE CUB.

"TODAY, MOM SAID TO ME, "I DIDN'T GIVE BIRTH TO YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO."

"THAT'S SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARILY PLEASANT TO HEAR."

"WILL A SIMILAR AMOUNT AS LAST TIME ROUGHLY COVER THE EXPENSES. YOU THINK?"


BECAUSE DURING THE LONELY NIGHTTIME, MOON-SAMA BEAMED HER GENTLE LIGHT UPON THE BEAR CUB.
AND BECAUSE, JUST LIKE A MOTHER BEAR WOULD, THE SHINING OF THE MOON GENTLY STROKED THE BEAR CUB'S FUR AT NIGHT
OF COURSE, ON DAYS THAT EITHER RAINED OR WERE OVERCAST
THOSE WERE DAYS SHE COULDN'T SHOW HERSELF IN THE SKY.

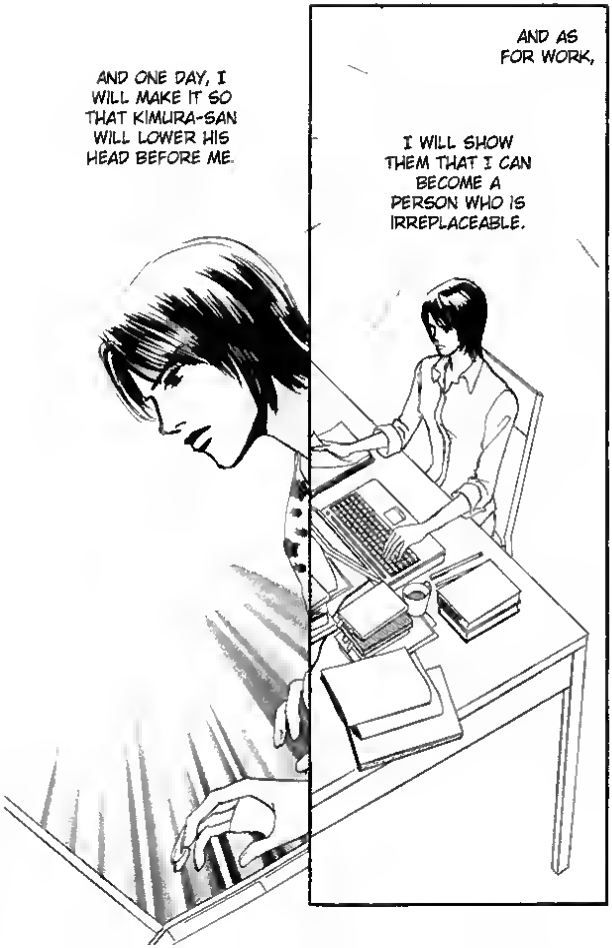
CREAK
OPEN...
NICO...

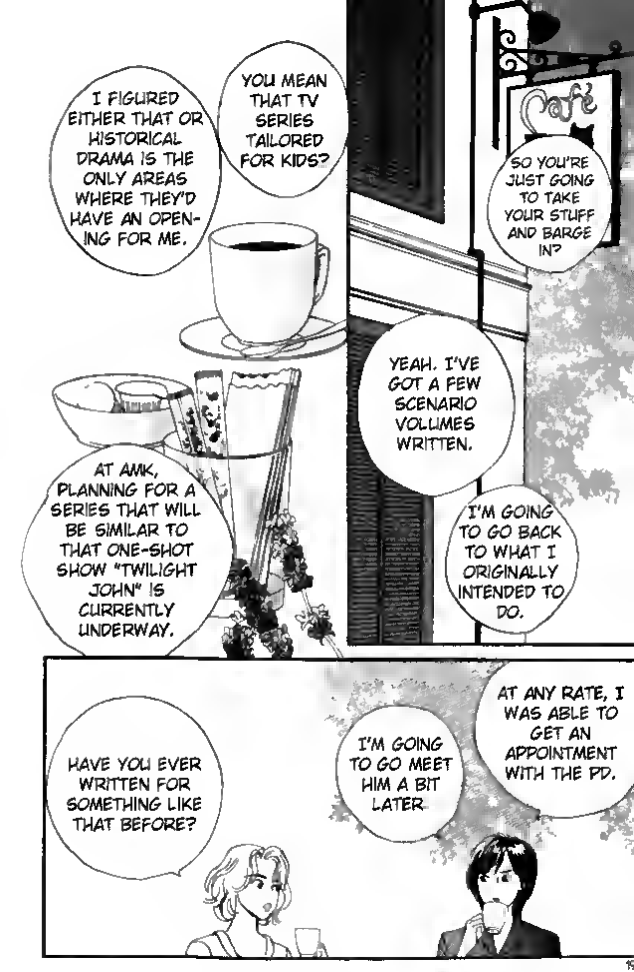
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER...
花
ONEE-SAN WAS MAD BECAUSE I LOST ONE OF MY JOBS...
I WAS NOT BEING ADULT-LIKE....
BUT JUST REMEMBER,
EVEN IN MOMENTS LIKE THAT, I STILL LOVE NICO...

*NOTE: SIGN SAYS HANA (FLOWER)

...I WILL.
EVEN MOON-SAMA HIDES ON RAINY DAYS.
...I WILL.
SQUEEZE...
?
MOON-SAMA?

AND FOR THIS CHILD, THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN REPLACE ME.
GOODNIGHT...
FOR ME, THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN REPLACE THIS CHILD.

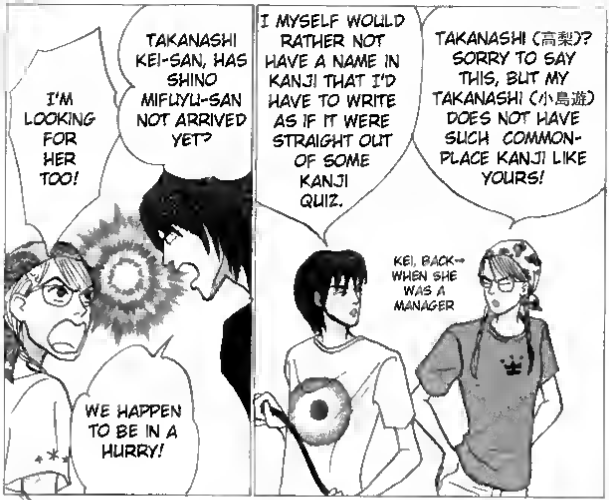

AND AS FOR WORK,
I WILL SHOW THEM THAT I CAN BECOME A PERSON WHO IS IRREPLACEABLE.
AND ONE DAY, I WILL MAKE IT SO THAT KIMURA-SAN WILL LOWER HIS HEAD BEFORE ME.


I FIGURED EITHER THAT OR HISTORICAL DRAMA IS THE ONLY AREAS WHERE THEY'D HAVE AN OPENING FOR ME.
YOU MEAN THAT TV SERIES TAILORED FOR KIDS?
Café
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE YOUR STUFF AND BARGE IN?
YEAH. I'VE GOT A FEW SCENARIO VOLUMES WRITTEN.
AT AMK, PLANNING FOR A SERIES THAT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT ONE-SHOT SHOW "TWILIGHT JOHN" IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.
I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO WHAT I ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO DO.
HAVE YOU EVER WRITTEN FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE?
I'M GOING TO GO MEET HIM A BIT LATER.
AT ANY RATE, I WAS ABLE TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PD.

I'D BETTER GET GOING.
HOLD ON.
BEFORE YOU GO, I'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF THOSE SHADOWS UNDER YOUR EYES SOMEHOW.
BUT YOU HAVE THAT MONEY THAT SHINO MIFUYU IS SENDING.
NO, BUT I'M AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF AND DESPERATE
THAT MONEY'S FOR NICO'S UPBRINGING, NOT TO PAY MY LIVING EXPENSES WITH.
GO RIGHT AHEAD. I BET IT'LL BE A MEGA HIT. UNIVERSALLY!
I COULD PROBABLY WRITE A PIECE JUST INCORPORATING YOUR STINGING REMARKS.
I'LL TELL YOU THIS... YOU LOOK DELIRIOUS.
I'LL FIX IT WITH CONCEALER.
IS IT THAT BAD?
THOUGH I DID SPEND THE NIGHT...

I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WAIT.
MKTV
I'M THE PD FROM THE 2ND PRODUCTION TEAM, TAKANASHI.

I'M TAKANASHI KEI.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I DON'T THINK THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING.
EXCUSE ME?
WHEN YOU WERE WORKING AS A MANAGER FOR SHINO MIFUYU,
WE MET A FEW TIMES ON THE DRAMA SET, BACK WHEN I WAS AN AD.


I'M LOOKING FOR HER TOO!
TAKANASHI KEI-SAN, HAS SHINO MIFUYU-SAN NOT ARRIVED YET?
WE HAPPEN TO BE IN A HURRY!
I MYSELF WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE A NAME IN KANJI THAT I'D HAVE TO WRITE AS IF IT WERE STRAIGHT OUT OF SOME KANJI QUIZ.
TAKANASHI (高梨)? SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT MY TAKANASHI (小鳥遊) DOES NOT HAVE SUCH COMMON-PLACE KANJI LIKE YOURS!
KEI, BACK-- WHEN SHE WAS A MANAGER

THAT SHABBY, SCRAWNY, IMPERTINENT, AND INEXPERIENCED LONG-HAIRED AD (OF COURSE I WAS YOUNG THEN TOO),

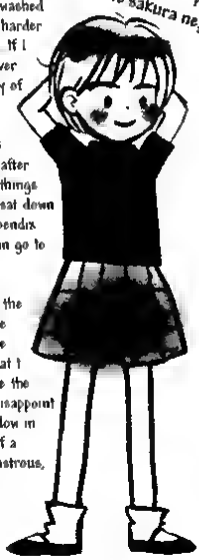
IS A PD NOW...!

★ NICO NICO NEWS ★

Message from the Manga-Ka

Hello!

Tomorrow, I'll be attending a harvest banquet at my daughter's (6th grade) school. Using the potatoes that the children grew themselves, the mothers who are volunteering will be making curry. Since I hadn't participated in the last six years (practically holding my breath when they designated members...) I thought I'd use this last chance to "contribute somehow!" and decided to show up. This way, including today's work of preparing the ingredients and tomorrow being the day of the feast itself, I'll be done if I will have survived the two days (^^). For the preparations today, we washed potatoes and evaluated their quality. Though the work was harder because the room was so steaming, I still had a good time. If I knew I'd have such a good time, I wish I had done more over the years... (wholeheartedly). And tomorrow will be the day of the feast at last.

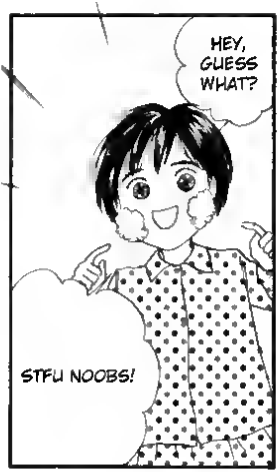


At the absolute latest, I'll have to be out of the house by 8 tomorrow morning, but right now, it's already 3 am! Even after coming back from doing preparations at the school today, things kept coming up, and it was already midnight by the time I sat down at my desk. And the last thing left for me to do is this appendix page. Since tomorrow is the deadline, there is no way I can go to bed until I'm finished writing.

And once again, I'll be working in a steamy little corner at the school tomorrow. What's worse is that I'll be in front of the stove, so things will probably be worse. And will it really be okay to get there being so sleep-deprived? In the event that I end up carrying pot full of curry up to the 4th floor, where the 6th graders are, and I get dizzy and my hands slip... I'd disappoint the entire Section 002 of the 6th grade class, who will wallow in their sorrow... (Rather, there may even be the possibility of a massive riot from the starvation). Since that would be disastrous, I guess I'll call it a night and get some sleep now.
So we shall meet again in the next volume!

Will I be able to make good curry...?

Ozawa Mari 7.12.2001



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XDCC'S AND FSERVES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

風林火山

FUU RIN KA ZAN